



FRIDAY
20 DECEMBER 2024

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The Statesman

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PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT, ALWAYS IN SESSION



THE NIGHT THE MUSIC
REFUSED TO DIE

P9



WHY NOW?

P8



FADNAVIS TAKES ON
OPPN IN HIS FIRST
ASSEMBLY SPEECH

P5

ICC ANNOUNCES
HYBRID MODEL FOR
CHAMPIONS TROPHY

P16



SENSEX 79,218.05 ▼ 964.16

NIFTY 23,951.70 ▼ 247.15

₹ vs \$ 85.07

GOLD 78,340.00

SILVER 99,000

BRENT CRUDE (IN \$) 73.41 ▲ 0.41

WEATHER

Cloudy. Hazy in the evening. Maximum and minimum temperatures likely to be around 27°C and 18°C respectively.

RAINFALL: NIL

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Max. 71% Min. 58%

TEMPERATURE

Max: 27.4°C Min: 18.8°C

SUN RISES 06:11 hrs SUN SETS 16:57 hrs

MOON RISES 21:46 hrs MOON SETS 10:10 hrs

New Moon on 31 December

THUMBNAILS



Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee inaugurates the Christmas Festival at Allen Park, Park Street. ■ BISWAJIT GHOSHAL (Page 3)

Longest surviving Hizbul commander killed in encounter in J&K: In a major blow to terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, the longest surviving Hizbul Mujahideen commander, Farooq Ahmad Bhat alias Nalli, was among five categorized terrorists killed on Thursday in an encounter in south Kashmir's Kaddar village of Behibagh Kulgam district. Two security forces personnel were injured during the gunfight. (Pg 7)

Ugly turn to Govt-Oppn tussle over Ambedkar

Two BJP MPs injured as scuffle breaks out between lawmakers at Parliament complex

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 19 DECEMBER

The row between the BJP-led NDA and the Congress-led Opposition over Bhimrao Ambedkar took an ugly turn on Thursday when a scuffle broke out in the Parliament premises in which two saffron party MPs were wounded and had to be hospitalised.

The two BJP MPs, Mukesh Rajput (Farukhabad) and Pratap Singh Sarangi (Balasore), blamed Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi for the incident in which they sustained injuries.

Amid high drama in the Parliament premises where the MPs of the two fronts were holding separate demonstrations over the Ambedkar issue, Congress chief and Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge also alleged he lost his balance and was forced to sit down on the ground when he was pushed by BJP MPs.

The incident took place when the INDIA bloc MPs



who were demanding an apology and the resignation of Union Home Minister Amit Shah over his remarks on Babasaheb Ambedkar, came face to face with the BJP lawmakers, who were protesting alleging that the Congress has insulted the architect of the Indian Constitution. The scuffle took place near the main entry of Parliament.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju told reporters: "They (Opposition) protest every day. They have been indulging in sloganeering and protesting everyday. For the first time, BJP MPs were protesting at Makar Dwar today. They were protesting against

the misinformation being spread by Congress." An agitated Mr Rijiju asked: "Who has given him (Rahul Gandhi) the right to push? They (Congress MPs) pushed and assaulted... if other MPs also start, what will happen then?"

BJP Rajya Sabha MP S Phangnon Konyak, from Nagaland, told the Upper House that she has written to Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar, alleging "misbehaviour" by Mr Gandhi.

Parliament again became a casualty of the incidents outside as both Houses were adjourned without conducting any business. The Winter session of Parliament is scheduled



to conclude tomorrow. The injured Mr Sarangi, who was in his wheelchair, told reporters at RML Hospital: "Rahul Gandhi pushed an MP who fell on me after which I fell down."

In his defence, Rahul Gandhi said: "This might be on your camera. I was trying to go inside through the Parliament entrance, BJP MPs were trying to stop me, push me and threaten me. So this happened... Yes, this has happened (Mallikarjun Kharge being pushed). But we do not get affected by jostling. But this is the entrance and we have the right to go in. BJP MPs were trying to stop us from going in... The

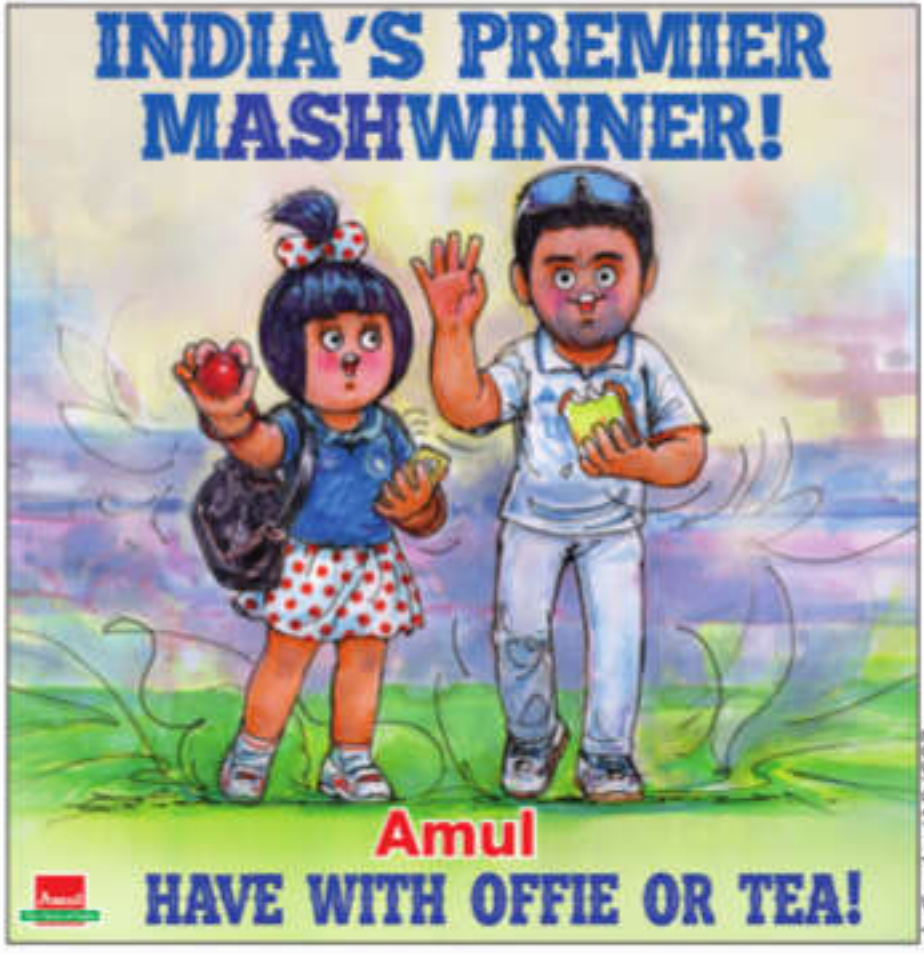
PM calls up injured MPs, assures full support

NEW DELHI, 19 DECEMBER

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday called up BJP MPs Pratap Sarangi and Mukesh Rajput to inquire about their well-being after they sustained injuries during a scuffle between the opposition and ruling alliance at the Parliament entrance, allegedly involving Congress leader Rahul Gandhi.

Both the BJP MPs were admitted to Delhi's Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital. PM Modi assured the two MPs of his full support. Medical Superintendent Ajay Shukla said that both the MPs suffered head injuries and have been admitted to the ICU. SNS

central issue is that they are attacking the Constitution and insulting the memory of Ambedkar ji." (More on Page 5)



Oppn's no-trust motion against Dhankhar rejected

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 19 DECEMBER

Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh on Thursday rejected the no-confidence motion moved by the Opposition against Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, terming it "an act of impropriety" to "mar the reputation of the chairman".

In a detailed order, the deputy chairman called the motion "flawed".

Explaining the reasons for the rejection, he pointed out that the mandatory 14-

day notice required to move such a motion was not provided. Additionally, he noted that Mr Dhankhar's name was misspelt in the notice.

At least 60 Opposition MPs of the INDIA bloc had on 10 December submitted the notice seeking removal of Mr Dhankhar.

Has your
bank account
become
inoperative?



Contact the bank

Update your KYC
to activate the account.

- » Bank account becomes inoperative if there is no transaction for more than two years.
- » Get your KYC updated at any branch of your bank or through video KYC.



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For feedback, write to rbikehtahai@rbi.org.in



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Amit Shah to attend SSB's 61st Raising Day in Siliguri

The SSB's Raising Day celebration will begin tomorrow morning, with Mr Shah scheduled to join the programme after 11 a.m

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SILIGURI, 19 DECEMBER

Union Home Minister Amit Shah is set to arrive at Bagdogra Airport late tonight (Thursday) to attend the 61st Raising Day celebrations of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) at its Frontier Headquarters in Ranidanga, Siliguri, tomorrow.

Mr Shah will also chair an "Area Assessment Register Review" meeting during his visit.

The Home Minister will land close to midnight aboard an Indian Air Force (IAF) aircraft and proceed directly to the SSB headquarters for an overnight stay.

In preparation for Mr Shah's visit, Officer on Special Duty (OSD) in the Ministry of Home Affairs, V K Upadhyay, has issued detailed instructions to ensure full proof security arrangements. Coordination among Delhi Police, CRPF, West Bengal Police, and other security agencies has been mandated, with an Advanced Security Liaison (ASL) to address all aspects of the Home Minister's transit and stay.

According to the OSD, "Adequate and comprehensive measures must be taken in view of the current security scenario." Helicopter travel,



if included in the itinerary, will require prompt communication of helipad coordinates by local authorities to BSF Air Wing DIG Shankar Srivastava. Backup communication protocols have also been outlined for seamless coordination.

The SSB's Raising Day celebration will begin tomorrow morning, with Mr Shah scheduled to join the programme after 11 a.m. As part of the event, he will virtually inaugurate residential facilities for Border Defence Force personnel at the Immigration Check Post (ICP) in Petrapole.

Following the celebrations and a working lunch, Mr Shah will hold a high-level "Area Assessment Register Review" meeting with senior

officials, expected to last over 30 minutes. This meeting is crucial for assessing regional security and operational readiness, sources said.

Eight senior officials will accompany the Home Minister throughout his visit. Arrangements for boarding and transportation for the officials from IAF and BSF are being meticulously planned to ensure smooth operations.

Mr Shah is expected to conclude his engagements in Siliguri and depart for Bagdogra Airport later in the afternoon.

The visit underlines the government's focus on border security and regional stability, with significant emphasis on inter-agency coordination and preparedness.

Six illegal immigrants caught in Nadia, four touts also held

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KRISHNANAGAR, 19 DECEMBER

Six Bangladeshi nationals, including two minors, present in India illegally, and four Indian touts were arrested by Hanskhali police under the Ranaghat Police District in Nadia.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided a house in Barochupria, Ramnagar-1 Gram Panchayat, late on Wednesday night and apprehended the group for illegal entry into India.

The arrested individuals - Rujina Khatun, Anwara Begam, Libia Khatun, Russel Hossain, and two minors - were said to have crossed the Indo-Bangladesh border unlawfully about a month ago.

According to police, they initially took shelter at the house of one Anwara Biswas in Barochupria.

The group later travelled to Mumbai in search of jobs, working as daily labourers and domestic workers. They returned to Biswas' residence a few days ago.

Police also arrested four Indian intermediaries - Balai Ray, Sagar Biswas, Hyder Mondol, and Anwara Biswas - who allegedly facilitated the illegal stay of the Bangladeshi nationals. The touts had reportedly promised to provide them with forged identity documents, including Aadhaar cards, PAN cards, voter IDs, and passports.

During interrogation, it



Border Security Force (BSF) personnel check people who are coming from Bangladesh, at the Ghodajanga check-post in North 24 Parganas ■ ANI

was revealed that the group exploited the dense fog of the winter season and crossed the dried-up Ichamati river to sneak into India. The porous nature of the border and lax surveillance in certain areas also helped in facilitating their illegal entry.

Police sources disclosed that, in the last year, as many as 190 individuals, including Bangladeshi nationals and their Indian accomplices, have been arrested under the Foreigners' Act. The authorities are intensifying surveillance along the border and targeting networks facilitating illegal crossings.

Superintendent of Police, Ranaghat Police District, emphasised the need for stringent monitoring and collaboration between border authorities to curb such activities. The arrested individuals are expected to be produced in court tomorrow, while investigations continue to identify other members of the smuggling network.

Land grab bid: FIR lodged against 12 after Moloy Ghatak's intervention

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
ASANSOL, 19 DECEMBER



An FIR has been lodged against twelve persons by a resident of Hill View area under Hiranagar Police Station. This action follows Law Minister Moloy Ghatak's directive to the West Burdwan District Magistrate to take stern action against land mafias.

On 1 December, a group of 50 to 60 armed individuals, allegedly belonging to land mafias, forcefully entered a plot and assaulted local security personnel and others present. The entire incident was captured on CCTV footage, which subsequently went viral. This triggered a massive public agitation, forcing the local MLA to visit Hill View and hold a meeting with the residents.

The MLA subsequently submitted a written complaint to the District Magistrate, urging stern action. He said that he had never witnessed such hooliganism before and declared that he would not tolerate such activities by land mafias.

Earlier, in September of this year, the MLA had filed complaints against eleven instances of land encroach-

ment and illegal pond filling in Asansol. The Asansol Durgapur Police Commissionerate (ADPC) has so far arrested five individuals for government land encroachment and illegally filling water bodies.

Hiranagar Police Station has registered a case against twelve individuals named in the FIR and another 25 unidentified persons in connection with the incident.

The individuals named in the FIR are: Dharmendra Kumar Singh, Satyam Singh, Rameshwar Singh, Ritesh Singh, Nikhil Paswan, Mannu Srivastav, Chandan Prasad, Piyush Singh, Santosh Singh, etc. Akash Singh, who filed the FIR, stated that he had purchased the 1.10-cottah plot in 2023 and was in the process of constructing a boundary wall when the miscreants attacked.

Three individuals - Rahul Kumar, Tamal Chakraborty, and Arti Paswan - were injured in the assault.

The Hill View Park Development Committee also lodged a separate complaint with the police station after meeting with Law, Judiciary, and Labour Minister Moloy Ghatak.

Basanti Aich, a local resident, described the incident as swift and shocking, akin to a Bollywood movie, leaving everyone stunned and terrified.

Recently, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee directed DGP Rajeev Kumar to take stern action against land mafias across the state during an administrative meeting at Nabanna. Following this directive, the Asansol Durgapur Police Commissionerate has also initiated raids and made arrests.

TENDER

MORE
TENDER ADS
ON PAGE 6 & 13

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
TENDER ID: 2024_WBP_784064_1
DATED: 12/12/2024
WORK TITLE: SUPPLY OF TYRES WITH TUBES AND FLAPS. BID CLOSING DATE: 27/12/2024. FOR MORE DETAILS LOGON TO: www.wbtenders.gov.in
Sd/- Superintendent of Police, Basirhat Police District. ICA: T23427/23/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE
Executive Engineer, P.W.Dte., Kolkata Electrical Division, invites e-tender for the work of "Rectification of cable fault & allied electrical work under MES-II, PWD." Vide e-tender no. WBPWD/EE-KED/eNIG-450/24-25. Tender ID: 2024_WBPWD_786925_1. Bid submission end date is 31.12.2024 upto 12.00 P.M. Details of Tender documents incl. Corrigendum, if any will be available at website: <http://www.wbtenders.gov.in>
Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.W.Dte., Kolkata Electrical Division. ICA: T23470/23/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
[N.I.T. No. 653/CE/MW/STC dated: 12.12.2024]
(Abridged e-Tender)
e-Tender, in prescribed form in two parts viz. Technical & Financial Bids are invited for the works below:-
1. Modification of 02(two)nos. twin screw steel Mechanized Boat, Tender ID: 2024_WBSTD_787381_1.
2. e-visit visit website: www.wbtenders.gov.in
Sd/- Chief Engineer (Marine) & OSD (By Managing Director), For W.B.S.T.C. Ltd. ICA: T23501/23/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE
e-tender invited by the Executive Engineer, P.W.D., Howrah Electrical Division, Oknarkal Jetia Road, Howrah-71103. NIT No. WBPWD/EE/HED/NIT-194 (2nd Call) of 2024-2025. Memo. 3413 Dt. 17.12.2024. Tender ID: 2024_WBPWD_786480_1. Name of Work: Repair & Renovation of Electrical Installation works and other utilities of DTO Office at Howrah District Hospital in Howrah District. RN 23002433. Project ID: - HF242522985000. Last Date of Submission: 10.01.2025. Interested bidder may download the Tender/Quotation documents from the website: www.pwdwb.in Sd/- A. Das, Executive Engineer, P.W.D., Howrah Electrical Division, Govt. of West Bengal. ICA: T23487/23/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE
Executive Engineer, Bishnupur Division, PWD invites online Tender for the work of - 1. Repair at Ch.3.200 km to Ch.3.300 km of RM Loop Road by interlocking concrete block pavements (ICPB) under Bishnupur Division, P.W.Dte., in the district of Bankura during the FY- 2024-25. Amount Put to Tender: Rs. 9,98,924.00. Tender ID: 2024_WBPWD_787119_1. NIT No: 19 of 2024-2025 of EE/BD/PWD. Bid submission closing date 30.12.2024 upto 12.00 p.m. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of NIT and Tender documents may be downloaded from <http://www.wbtenders.gov.in> Sd/- Executive Engineer, Bishnupur Division, P.W.Dte. ICA: T23480/23/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
TENDER NOTICE
Ref. No.: WBPWD/EE/NI/52/24-25
E-tender is invited by the DIG (AP), Barrackpore, WB, Kolkata - 700120, for Procurement of Clothing articles and Refreshment in c/w 26th January Republic Day Parade 2025. Rates under bid to be quoted in the prescribed format (Standardized BOQ format). 1. Tender ID: 2024_WBP_785754_1. 2. Tender ID: 2024_WBP_785754_2. 3. Amount of Earnest Money in Online: Rs. 20,000/- (Rupees Twenty Thousand) only. 4. Last date of Submission of e-tender: 06/01/2025. 5. Bid Opening Date: 09/01/2025. 6. For details please see portal: <https://www.wbtenders.gov.in> Sd/- Deputy Inspector General of Police, Armed Police, Barrackpore West Bengal. ICA: T23428/23/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
Electronic bids are invited by the Executive Engineer, Testa Mechanical Division for 02 nos. Work from bonafide, resourceful contractor. Abridged e-NIT No.: WBW/EE/TMD/e-NIT-05/2024-25. Last date of bid submission: 27.12.2024. Detailed NIT may be seen at www.wbtenders.gov.in. Sd/- Executive Engineer, Testa Mechanical Division, I & WD, Timbaiti, Siliguri, Pin: 734005. ICA: T23416/23/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Abridged e-QUOTATION NOTICE
A-Quotations are invited by the Executive Engineer, Alipurduar Division, P.H.E. Dte. from the reputed, bonafide, financially sound & experienced agency/firm for the work of "WORKS RELATED TO PWSS" against following NIT No.: 04/ALD/2024-25. Last Date of Submission for tender 27/12/2024 upto 02.00 p.m. Details may be viewed in the <http://www.wbtenders.gov.in> ICA: T23487/24/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
A1. Supply, Installation, testing & commissioning of humidifiers including civil works at Binoy Krishna Chowdhury Multipurpose Cold Storage at Nokari in the district Nadia vide NIT No. WB/SAM/CO/O/10/2024-25. Dated: 13.12.2024 bearing Tender ID: 2024_WBSMB_785694_1. The last date for submission of Tender is on 02.01.2025 upto to 06.55 P.M. The detail information regarding e-NIT will be available on the <http://www.wbtenders.gov.in> Sd/- Chief Executive Engineer, West Bengal State Agricultural Marketing Board. ICA: T23416/23/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Abridged Notice for e-N.I.T. No. - WBW/EE/MCD/NIT No. 01 of 2024-25 From SL NO. - 01 to SL NO. - 11
Bid submission end date: 04.01.2025 upto 17.00 hrs. Details of e-NIT will be available in the website www.wbtenders.gov.in. <https://www.wbtenders.gov.in/> and office of the undersigned during office hours on any working day. Sd/- Executive Engineer, Mahananda Canal Division, E-Mail ID: ee.mahacndvn@gmail.com ICA: T23411/4/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
The Executive Engineer Salt Lake Reclamation Division invites the e-tender, online percentage rate basis e-tenders vide Tender ID No. 2024_WBUD_786477_1, 2 & 3 WBUD & MA/EE/SRD/NIT-52/24-25 of EE/SLRD dated: 13/12/2024. Value of works are Rs. 4,80,721.00, 4,82,679 and Rs. 9,78,780.00. Start and last date of submission of bid online are 20/12/2024 and 27/12/2024 upto to 13.00 Hrs. respectively. All documents can be seen/obtained from the website detailed information can be seen in the website: www.wburbanservices.gov.in and office Notice Board. ICA: T23408/23/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE
Superintending Engineer, Central Circle, P.W.Dte. invites e-NIT No. 04 of 2024-2025 on behalf of the Governor of the state of WB. Name of work: (Sl. No.-1) Construction of Multi (Six) Cell (3M X 5M) Box Bridge at (33 RD KM of Chumakhal-Jalangi Road (SH-11) under Berhampore Division No. II (P.W.D.) in the district of Murshidabad. Tender ID: 2024_PWD_786562_2. Estimated amount: - 2,80,08,549/-. Earnest Money: - 3,72,724/- Period of completion: - 120 days. Online Bid submission: - start date & time: 24.12.2024 from 6.00 pm. closing date & time: 31.01.2025 at 3.00 P.M. Corrigendum if any, except time extension will be published in website only. Details of e-NIT and Tender documents may be downloaded from <http://www.wbtenders.gov.in> Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Central Circle, P.W.Dte. ICA: T23483/23/2024

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154
Bakreswar Thermal Power Plant, P.O. BakTPPP, Dist. - Birbhum, Pin - 731104
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
Ref. No.: WBPDC/L/Tend-Adv/24-25/BKTPP/CC-2841 Dated: 16.12.2024
NIT No.: WBPDC/L/BKTPP/OT/E3480/24-25
E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at <https://www.wbtenders.gov.in> by the General Manager - BKTPP, WBPDC/L from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2 Part bid system for "Procurement of 6.6KV rated Conveying Blower Motor (300KW) & HP Water Pump Motor (300KW) for Stage-I under AHP-EM Department at BKTPP". Tender Document Download Start Date: 16.12.2024 at 13.00 hrs. Bid Submission End Date: 11.01.2025 at 16.00 hrs. Contact Person: Mr. Sumit Dasgupta, Dy. General Manager, H&D (Purchase Dept.), BKTPP, WBPDC. Mobile: 833693911. E-mail: s.dasgupta@wpdc.co.in purchase_bpdp@wpdc.co.in For details please visit: <https://www.wbtenders.gov.in> ICA: T23479/23/2024

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154
Registered & Corporate Office: Bidyut Umayan Bhawan Plot No.: 3/C, L.A.-Block, Sector-III, Bidhannagar, Kol-700106
Notice Inviting e-Tender
Ref. No.: WBPDC/L/Tend-Adv/24-25/CCP/CC-2858 Date: 18.12.2024
NIT No.: WBPDC/L/CCP/NIT/E1972/24-25 Dated: 17.12.2024
"Procurement of Illumination Items for corporate office, WBPDC/L".
NIT Document Download Start Date / Bid End Date: 17.12.2024 from 18:00 hrs. / 03.01.2025 at 10:00 hrs. Contact Person: Smt. Sulagna Das, Manager (PS), M&C. Contact No.: 8240042058. E-mail: s.dass@wpdc.co.in For details please visit: <https://www.wbtenders.gov.in> ICA: T23508/23/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE
E-tender work is hereby invited by the Executive Engineer, Bidhannagar IT Division, P.W.D. Room No. 115, 1st Floor, OF Block Purta Bhawan Sector-I, Saltlake, Kolkata-700091. Name of Work: Urgent Repair & Replacement of existing CCTV Surveillance System at Samungalam Home For Boys Bankura. Project ID: WC2425224203000. NIT No: WBPWD/EE/BIT/NIG-54 OF 2024-2025. Tender ID: 2024_WBPWD_786356_1. Bid Submission start date (Online): 24.12.2024. Bid Submission closing date (Online): 31.12.2024. Corrigendum if any will be published website only. Details of NIT & tender documents may be downloaded from <http://www.wbtenders.gov.in> Sd/- EE, Bidhannagar IT Division, P.W.D. ICA: T23442/23/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE
Executive Engineer, PWD, Howrah Division invites online e-tender for the work of: 1. Emergent Repair and Reorientation of PSD Bathroom with some other ancillary works at ADM Building, Howrah during the year 2024-25. Estt. Amt. put to Tender: Rs. 2,62,307/-. 2. Emergent Repairing and Renovation work in the Chamber and Court room of the Additional District Judge, 4th Court, Howrah during the year 2024-25. Estt. Amt. put to Tender: Rs. 9,93,248/-. 4. Emergent Repairing & Renovation with some other allied works to the A.D.M (GENERAL) Bungalow, Howrah during the year 2024-25. Estt. Amt. put to Tender: Rs. 4,99,954/-. 5. Emergent repairing and re-orientation of separate toilet for male and female personnel including installation of new sanitary and plumbing fittings at Civil Defence Office, Howrah during the year 2024-25. Estt. Amt. put to Tender: Rs. 3,19,771/-. 7. Emergent repairing & modification works to the Integrated Control Room at Civil Defence section, Howrah during the year 2024-25. Estt. Amt. put to Tender: Rs. 4,39,934/- N.I.E.T. NO.: WBPWD/EE/HD/NIT-84/2024-2025. Tender ID: 2024_WBPWD_786431_1/2/3/4/5/6/7. Bid Submission start date (online) 23.12.2024 upto to 10.00 A.M. Bid Submission end date (online) 30.12.2024 upto to 13.00 P.M. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of NIT and Tender documents may be downloaded from <http://www.wbtenders.gov.in> Sd/- Executive Engineer, Howrah Division, PWD ICA: T23461/23/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
KMDA TENDER NOTICE
e-NIT No: 63/SE/Prog/SKD/MOA OF 2024-2025
Online two parts tender is invited by the Superintending Engineer, Programme Circle, SD Sector, KMDA, Umayan Bhawan, 5th Floor, Block-A, Salt Lake City, Kolkata-700091, from reliable, resourceful, bonafide and experienced agencies, for the work, Sl. No. Name of work, Estimated Cost, Earnest Money Deposit, Time of Completion, (1) Construction of five nos. storm water surface drains with R.C.C. cover slab in different locations of Bananagar, ward no. 11 under Madhyagram Municipality, Rs.1,03,75,646.78, Rs.2,07,513/-, 120 days, (2) - Same as Sl. No. -1- one from Bharati Sagar to existing high drain near Kora Primary School of length 891 m (approx) and other from Rail side drain to Kora drain under Bahadur Mission Road of length 387m (approx) at ward no. 14, 15 under Madhyagram Municipality, Rs.2,38,88,474.83, Rs.4,47,770/-, 150 days, (3) Construction of brick masonry storm water drains with RCC slab from Baro Majid to Khurshid Khal and SVBP Road to PK Biswas road and de-silting of drain at the Western side of B.T. road within ward no. 13, 14, 15, 16 and 22 under Tiagarh Municipality, Rs.2,43,97,481.42, Rs.4,87,950/-, 150 days, (4) Construction of RCC Box drain from Bedanta Sarani to CCI Canal via Bipin Bihari School of length 1200m (approx) at ward no. 11, 14 under Madhyagram Municipality, Rs.4,84,48,592/-, Rs.9,68,972/-, 240 days, Last date & time of online Bid submission: 11.01.2025 at 18:55 hours, for details contact the above office or visit both websites. (KMDA-496) www.kmda.wb.gov.in www.wbtenders.gov.in ICA: T23418/23/2024

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154
Santalidih Thermal Power Station P.O. Santalidih Thermal Plant, Dist. - Purulia, Pin - 723146
Notice Inviting e-Tender
Ref. No.: WBPDC/L/Tend-Adv/24-25/STPS/CC-2829 Dated: 16.12.2024
NIT No.: WBPDC/L/STPS/NIT/E3771/24-25
E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at <https://www.wbtenders.gov.in> by the General Manager, STPS, WBPDC/L from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2 Part bid system for "Round the Clock Fire Surveillance Job & Fire Fighting Rescue Services with Bit Maintenance Job for two years under F&S Dept., STPS". Tender Document Download Start Date: 16.12.2024 at 11.00 hrs. Bid Submission End Date: 08.01.2025 within 16.00 hrs. Contact Person: Mr. G. C. Maji. Mobile: 833693939. E-mail: gcmaji@wpdc.co.in For details please visit: <https://www.wbtenders.gov.in> ICA: T23436/23/2024

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154
Santalidih Thermal Power Station P.O. Santalidih Thermal Plant, Dist. - Purulia, Pin - 723146
Notice Inviting e-Tender
Ref. No.: WBPDC/L/Tend-Adv/24-25/STPS/CC-2832 Dated: 16.12.2024
NIT No.: WBPDC/L/STPS/NIT/E3815/24-25
E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at <https://www.wbtenders.gov.in> by the General Manager, STPS, WBPDC/L from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2 Part bid system for "Service Contract for Unit-5 Boiler Pressure Parts Overhauling scheduled to be held in Jan 2026 under BMD, STPS". Tender Document Download Start Date: 19.12.2024 from 11:00 hrs. Bid Submission End Date: 18.01.2025 within 16.00 hrs. Contact Person: Mr. G. C. Maji. Mobile: 833693939. E-mail: gcmaji@wpdc.co.in For details please visit: <https://www.wbtenders.gov.in> ICA: T23437/23/2024

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154
Santalidih Thermal Power Station P.O. Santalidih Thermal Plant, Dist. - Purulia, Pin - 723146
Notice Inviting e-Tender
Ref. No.: WBPDC/L/Tend-Adv/24-25/STPS/CC-2831 Dated: 16.12.2024
NIT No.: WBPDC/L/STPS/NIT/E3778/24-25
E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at <https://www.wbtenders.gov.in> by the General Manager, STPS, WBPDC/L from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2 Part bid system for "Painting of Unit#5 & Site Staircase Towers, Approaching Pipe Rack Structures and associated Steel Structures at STPS". Tender Document Download Start Date: 16.12.2024 at 15:00 hrs. Bid Submission End Date: 13.01.2025 at 15:00 hrs. Contact Person: Mr. M. Mondal, Dy. General Manager (M&C), STPS. Mobile: 8336939308. E-mail: m.mondal@wpdc.co.in For details please visit: <https://www.wbtenders.gov.in> ICA: T23508/23/2024

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154
Santalidih Thermal Power Station P.O. Santalidih Thermal Plant, Dist. - Purulia, Pin - 723146
Notice Inviting e-Tender
Ref. No.: WBPDC/L/Tend-Adv/24-25/STPS/CC-2853 Dated: 17.12.2024
NIT No.: WBPDC/L/CCP/NIT/E1969/24-25 Dated: 17.12.2024
"Hiring of one AC Vehicle (Scorpio/Bolero) for shift duty (24 hrs.) in respect of newly operated Dumka Siding for (01 year)".
NIT Document Download Start Date / Bid End Date: 13.12.2024 from 16:00 hrs. / 27.12.2024 at 16:00 hrs. Contact Person: Smt. Seema Das, Senior Manager (M&C), Contact No.: 9073900803. E-mail: s.das@wpdc.co.in For details please visit: <https://www.wbtenders.gov.in> ICA: T23509/23/2024

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154
Santalidih Thermal Power Station P.O. Santalidih Thermal Plant, Dist. - Purulia, Pin - 723146
Notice Inviting e-Tender
Ref. No.: WBPDC/L/Tend-Adv/24-25/STPS/CC-2832 Dated: 16.12.2024
NIT No.: WBPDC/L/STPS/NIT/E3815/24-25
E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at <https://www.wbtenders.gov.in> by the General Manager, STPS, WBPDC/L from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2 Part bid system for "Service Contract for Unit-5 Boiler Pressure Parts Overhauling scheduled to be held in Jan 2026 under BMD, STPS". Tender Document Download Start Date: 19.12.2024 from 11:00 hrs. Bid Submission End Date: 18.01.2025 within 16.00 hrs. Contact Person: Mr. G. C. Maji. Mobile: 833693939. E-mail: gcmaji@wpdc.co.in For details please visit: <https://www.wbtenders.gov.in> ICA: T23437/23/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE
Executive Engineer-I, P.W. Dte., Central Kolkata Health Electrical Division, P-12, C.I.T Road (1st Floor), Kolkata-14 invites e-tender (online) for the work of (1) "Repair and Renovation of Electrical Installation Work at Nurses Hostel Building Related to Civil Renovation Works (chunk removal and damp repair) at CNMCH, Kolkata," vide e-tender no. WBPWD/EE/IC/KHED/eNIT-95/24-25. Tender ID: 2024_WBPWD_786471. Bid submission end date (online) for the job is 11/01/2025 upto 14:00 P.M. Detail information/download/upload will be available from the website: <http://www.wbtenders.gov.in> & <http://www.pwdwb.in> Sd/- Executive Engineer-I, Central Kolkata Health Electrical Division, P.W. Dte. ICA: T23454/23/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE
E-tender work is hereby invited by the Executive Engineer, Bidhannagar IT Division, PWD, Room No. 115, 1st Floor, OF Block Purta Bhawan Sector-I, Saltlake, Kolkata-700091. Name of Work: SITC of CCTV Surveillance System for security purpose at Court premises of Serampore Sub Divisional Court in the District of Hooghly, Project ID: Jd232415872000. Additional Work. NIT No: WBPWD/EE/BIT/NIQ-47 OF 2024-2025-2 N D Call. Tender ID: 2024_WBPWD_786444_1. Bid Submission start date (Online): 24.12.2024. Bid Submission Closing date (Online): 08.01.2025. Corrigendum if any will be published website only. Details of NIT & tender documents may be downloaded from <http://www.wbtenders.gov.in> Sd/- EE, Bidhannagar IT Division, P.W.D. ICA: T23448/23/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Panchayats and Rural Development Department
Government of West Bengal
Joint Administrative Building, Floor-8th
Block- HC-7, Sector- III, Salt Lake City, Kolkata- 106
CORRIGENDUM TO NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Tender Notice No.: SB42-PRD-24099/7/2024-Sanitation Dated 12.12.2024
Name of the Work: Engagement of Consultant for SLWM for State PMU under SBM (G) Phase 2.0. Terms & conditions of the NITs referred above have been modified with the approval of MD, SBM (G). All the Bonafide Organizations/ Institutions/ Agencies/ Firms are requested to visit the website <https://www.wbtenders.gov.in> for detailed information. Sd/- Mission Director, SBM (G) & Addl. Secretary to the Govt. of West Bengal ICA: T23406/23/2024

CM Mamata Banerjee kicks off Kolkata Christmas Festival

Chief minister raps Central government for scrapping Christmas Day as a national holiday



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 19 DECEMBER

Chief minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday rapped the Central government for scrapping 25 December, Christmas Day, as a national holiday as she inaugurated the annual Kolkata Christmas Festival at Allen Park, Park Street.

Addressing a gathering at on the occasion, Miss Banerjee said: "Earlier, 25 December used to be a national holiday but the Centre has scrapped that holiday but I never do such things. We mark this august occasion as a holiday in our state. We want everybody on this occasion to take time off for celebration, by visiting churches and offering

prayers. I myself go to a church at midnight on 24 December to participate in midnight carols and offering prayers."

Miss Banerjee reiterated: "We, the people of Bengal love all religions and culture, and respect harmony. Bengal love to go along with everybody. I am launching the festival today and it will continue till 30 December. There

will be no movement of vehicular traffic on 24 and 25 December here (Park Street). People can walk on these two days. Many cultural programmes would be organised here everyday. Christmas means love, Christmas means joy, Christmas means peace, Christmas means unity." Miss Banerjee during her speech also expressed shock at the comments made by

Union Home Minister Amit Shah in the Rajya Sabha insulting the memory of B R Ambedkar. "All communities have their separate relevance in a society. We need to go along with everybody. I'm shocked at the alleged comments made on the founder of our constitution Babasaheb Ambedkar," she told the gathering.

(Photos by Biswajit Ghoshal)

Bengal government withdraws affidavit filed in Calcutta HC on Rekha Patra's election petition

AGENCIES
KOLKATA, 19 DECEMBER

The West Bengal government on Thursday withdrew its affidavit in the election petition filed by Rekha Patra, the BJP candidate for Basirhat Lok Sabha constituency in North 24 Parganas district in the general elections this year.

The state government has also tendered an apology to the court for filing the affidavit which carried the signature of the returning officer despite the state government not being a party in the said election petition.

The counsel for Patra had questioned how the returning officer could sign the copy of the affidavit filed by the state government and also questioned the neutrality of the returning officer.

Thereafter the single-judge bench of Krishna Rao, before whom the election petition was filed, asked the state government for the reason behind filing the affidavit despite not being a party in the case.

Finally, on Thursday, the state government withdrew the affidavit and tendered an apology in the matter.



The next hearing on the matter will be in January 2025.

Patra became the face of the movement by women at Sandeshkhali under Basirhat sub-division in North 24 Parganas district before the Lok Sabha polls this year against the events of sexual harassment on women and illegal land grabbing by now-suspended local Trinamool Congress leader Sheikh Shahjahan and his associates.

Later, the BJP fielded her as the party candidate in the Parliamentary polls. However, she was defeated by Trinamool candidate Haji

Nurul Islam.

In her election petition filed in June, Patra accused the winning Trinamool candidate, who died in September, of suppressing information to the Election Commission. Her counsel claimed that the Trinamool candidate adopted an immoral stance while contesting the election.

Thereafter in July, the single-judge bench ordered serving notice to all parties concerned in the case and also directed the preservation of all election-related documents including EVMs, postal ballots, and CCTV footage among others.

Controversy surrounds WBMC registrar appointment

SUBHENDU MAITI
KOLKATA, 19 DECEMBER

A controversy has erupted around the West Bengal Medical Council (WBMC) over the appointment procedure for its new registrar.

On 25 October, the state health department, headed by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, cancelled the reappointment of Registrar Manas Chakraborty, effective 1 November 2019. This action was taken because the WBMC

did not obtain approval from the state government before reappointing him. Mr. Chakraborty served as registrar from 2016 to his retirement on 31 October 2019.

In a letter to Dr. Sudipta Roy, the health department directed him to appoint a new registrar to replace Mr. Chakraborty.

To appoint the new registrar, the state medical council published an open advertisement in newspapers on 7 December. The advertise-

Traditionally, the WBMC appointed its registrar by promoting an assistant registrar or an upper division assistant (UDA) with extensive experience within the council. This practice has been followed since 1990. The post of registrar was typically filled by promoting qualified internal candidates. Age was not a significant factor in these appointments. promotion.

ment invited interested candidates with a maximum age limit of 35 years, with the application deadline set for 1 January 2024. This has

sparked significant controversy.

Some senior WBMC employees expressed concern that this advertisement

allowed individuals who had never worked for the council to apply for the registrar position. They also pointed out that the selected candidate could potentially serve as registrar for up to 25 years based on the age limit criteria.

Traditionally, the WBMC appointed its registrar by promoting an assistant registrar or an upper division assistant (UDA) with extensive experience within the council. This practice has been fol-

lowed since 1990.

The post of registrar was typically filled by promoting qualified internal candidates. Age was not a significant factor in these appointments. Former registrars Dilip Ghosh and Mr. Chakraborty were both appointed through this traditional process of promotion.

The Bengal Medical Act of 1914 mandates that the WBMC obtain clearance from the state government before appointing a registrar. However, the council has not

adhered to this requirement since Mr. Chakraborty's appointment.

Assistant Registrar Swarup Dutta has filed complaints with Principal Secretary Narayan Swarup Nigam, the Director of Medical Education, the Director of Health Services, and Dr. Roy, challenging the advertisement and the appointment process.

Sources within the health department suggest that Mr. Dutta, with over 13 years of service as the senior-most

assistant registrar at the WBMC, would have been a suitable candidate for the position if the council had followed the traditional promotion-based appointment process.

Junior and senior doctors have been highly critical of Mr. Chakraborty's reappointment and the activities of the WBMC led by Dr. Roy, particularly following the rape and murder of a woman doctor at R.G. Kar Medical College Hospital on 9 August.

Villages in Jhargram battle severe riverbank erosion as Kangsabati river advances



BISWABRATA GOSWAMI
MIDNAPORE, 19 DECEMBER

The villages of Baita, Kungarpur, and Balishira in the Binpur-1 block of Jhargram district are grappling with an escalating crisis as riverbank erosion along the Kangsabati river threatens their homes and livelihoods. Agricultural lands, the primary source of income for residents, are being devoured by the river, leaving villagers anxious about their future.

The situation has worsened during the monsoon season, particularly when water is released from the Mukutmanipur reservoir in Bankura, causing the river to overflow and breach its banks. In Kungarpur, the river is dangerously close to residential areas, with embankments showing signs of collapse under the pressure of strong currents.

Local residents have repeatedly demanded construction of robust embankments to curb erosion, but their calls have largely gone unanswered. "For a long time, we have been urging the administration to take action. Despite protests, no significant measures have been implemented," said Tarak Chalak, Upapradhan of Baita Gram Panchayat.

Biswajit Bera, an Assistant Professor of Geography at Sidho Kanho Birsha University, highlighted the complexities of managing Bengal's river systems. "Linear embankments were con-

structed to control floods, but they have led to sediment buildup and restricted dispersal, causing long-term changes in river dynamics. Low-height earthen embankments, however, can still play a significant role in mitigating low-intensity floods," Mr Bera explained.

Environmentalist Pravat Kumar Shit added that human activities, including sand mining and land use changes along the river, have exacerbated the issue. "Rivers are non-linear by nature, and controlling their behavior with linear embankments is an immense challenge. During monsoons, high runoff causes embankment breaches, leading to catastrophic flooding," he noted.

In response to mounting pressure, Namit Sarkar, executive engineer of the district irrigation department, said that steps are being taken to address the problem. "A budget of Rs 6.10 crore has been sanctioned to combat erosion along 1.825 kilometers of the Kangsabati River in Binpur-1 block. Construction work on embankments is currently underway," he said.

However, villagers remain skeptical about the efficacy and timeliness of the measures. The urgent need for sustainable and effective solutions is evident as the Kangsabati River continues to encroach on settlements and farmland, leaving an indelible mark on the lives of those in its path.

Youth caught making digital map of Army's Panagarh station

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
DURGAPUR, 19 DECEMBER

A youth equipped with cyber equipment trespassed into the prohibited zone of the Indian Army's Panagarh Base and was intercepted by jawans while preparing a digital map of the restricted area.

The youth claimed to be working for a private cellular network company, stating that he was preparing a route map for laying underground internet fibre cables and towers. However, he failed to produce valid documents to support his claim.

Nilesh Yadav, the youth, hails from Banka district in Bihar. Army Civil Depot Jawans detected various mapping apps installed on his Android phone. Five cellphones were recovered from his possession. The jawans suspected that he may be involved with foreign forces.

The jawans handed over the youth to the officials of Budbud Police Station. The ACJM Court in Durgapur denied his bail petition and ordered five days of police remand to facilitate further interrogation and investigations.

FURIOUS PROTEST



Congress workers stage an agitation against Union home minister Amit Shah at Jadubabur Bazar on Thursday ■ SNS

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

East Kolkata Wetlands Management Authority
Pranisampad Bhavan, 5th Floor, LB-2, Sector-III,
Salt Lake, Kolkata- 700106

Notice for State Level Photography Competition and Slogan Competition

The East Kolkata Wetlands Management Authority (EKWMA) is pleased to announce a **Photography & Slogan Competition** to celebrate **World Wetlands Day, 2025**. Participants are encouraged to showcase their creativity and contribute to raising awareness about the importance of wetlands through their photographs and slogans.

For more details regarding participation, rules and submission guidelines, please visit the official website at www.ekwma.in or contact the office at the above-mentioned address.

Sd/-
Chief Technical Officer, EKWMA

ICA- N 560/2/2024

Best collection of Handcrafted products
SARAS Mela is back again
With the inspiration of
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Mamata Banerjee
The only National level handicrafts fair for
Self-Help Groups, is being organised in Kolkata.

20th Kolkata SARAS Mela
New Town Mela Ground (Next to Biswa Bangla Gate)

Inauguration:
20 December, 2024, 2.30 pm by
Shri Pradip Kumar Mazumdar
Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge, Panchayats & Rural Development
Department & Co-operation Department, Government of West Bengal

Hon'ble Guests
Shri Sobhandeb Chattopadhyay
Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge, Department of Parliamentary Affairs,
Department of Agriculture, Government of West Bengal
Dr. Shashi Panja
Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge, Department of Industry, Commerce and
Enterprises, Department of Women & Child Development and Social Welfare,
Government of West Bengal
Shri Sujit Bose
Hon'ble Minister of State with Independent Charge,
Department of Fire and Emergency Services, Government of West Bengal
Smt. Chandrima Bhattacharya
Hon'ble Minister of State with Independent Charge, Department of Finance,
Programme Monitoring, Environment and Hon'ble Minister of State,
Department of Health and Family Welfare, Land and Land Reforms & Refugee
Relief and Rehabilitation, Planning and Statistics, Government of West Bengal

Shri Becharam Manna
Hon'ble Minister of State,
Department of Panchayats and
Rural Development and Hon'ble
Minister of State with Independent
Charge, Department of Agricultural
Marketing,
Government of West Bengal
Smt. Seuli Saha
Hon'ble Minister of State,
Department of Panchayats and
Rural Development,
Government of West Bengal

Smt. Krishna Chakraborty
Mayor,
Bidhannagar Municipal Corporation,
Government of West Bengal
Shri Sabyasachi Dutta
Chairman,
Bidhannagar Municipal Corporation,
Government of West Bengal
Shri Tapas Chatterjee
MLA, Rajarhat

20 December, 2024 - 2 January, 2025
12 noon to 9 pm

To know more log on to
www.srishtishree.wb.gov.in | [kolkatasarasamela](https://www.facebook.com/kolkatasarasamela)

All are invited | **Anandadhara, Panchayats & Rural Development Department, Government of West Bengal**

BJP calls for legal action, Cong rejects saffron party's charges

Both the NDA and INDIA bloc MPs had staged a protest in Parliament premises

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 19 DECEMBER

The BJP and Congress on Thursday traded charges over a scuffle between lawmakers of the two parties at Parliament premises earlier in the day. Both the NDA and INDIA bloc MPs had staged a protest in Parliament premises, when the scuffle broke out between the two sides, injuring two BJP MPs— Pratap Chandra Sarangi and Mukesh Rajput. The BJP MPs were admitted to Delhi's Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital. BJP MP Pratap Chandra Sarangi alleged that he was hurt after a push from Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi. Sarangi claimed that he was standing on stairs when another mem-



ber of Parliament fell on him, leading to an injury on his head.

Responding to the incident, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi while addressing a joint press conference refuted allegations of the BJP

and called it a tactic of the ruling dispensation to divert from the issue of billionaire businessman Gautam Adani and Union Home Minister Amit Shah's remarks on Babasaheb Ambedkar.

Both the Congress leaders have also demanded the resignation of Shah over his

remarks on Ambedkar. Countering Rahul Gandhi during a joint press conference along with Union Minister and senior BJP leader Piyush Goyal at the BJP headquarters here, Union Minister and senior BJP leader Shivraj Singh Chouhan said the saffron party's MPs have complained about the incident at Parliament premises. "And BJP will take all the required legal action," Chouhan said. He said Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi just did the press conference. "We thought they would apologise for what they did today. But they did not. I did not understand why they did a press conference. Their press conference displayed their arrogance... I have been seeing his behaviour. But what he

(Rahul Gandhi) did today is unimaginable by a civilised society," Chouhan said. "Today when BJP MPs were opposing at the Makar Dwar, Rahul Gandhi came there. Security personnel told them to use the other space on the side to enter. But he came there on purpose," the senior BJP leader said. "But deliberately and thoughtfully, Rahul Gandhi reached among our MPs and not only interfered but also indulged in pushing and hooliganism," he said. He said the BJP's elderly MP Pratap Chandra Sarangi was admitted to the ICU and he is still under treatment. "Will physical power be used in the Parliament instead of logic?" the Union Minister said.

Nagaland MP Phangnon Konyak accuses Rahul of 'hurting her dignity'

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 19 DECEMBER

Rajya Sabha MP from Nagaland S Phangnon Konyak Thursday accused Congress lawmaker and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi of hurting her "dignity and self-esteem". A scuffle broke out on the Parliament premises in which two BJP MPs— Mukesh Rajput and Pratap Singh Sarangi— were injured and had to be hospitalised. These unsavoury incidents took place when INDIA bloc MPs, demanding an apology and resignation of Union Home Minister Amit Shah over his remarks on Babasaheb Ambedkar, came face to face with the BJP lawmakers, who were protesting against the Congress for allegedly insulting the architect of the Indian Constitution.



Seeking protection from harassment by Rahul Gandhi, Konyak, belonging to the ST community, has written to Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar alleging misbehaviour by Rahul Gandhi with her.

Konyak filed a complaint with Dhankhar, claiming that her dignity and self-esteem have been deeply hurt because of the 'behaviour and conduct' of Rahul Gandhi.

In her letter to the Rajya Sabha chairman, she claimed

that Gandhi, along with other members of the grand old party, misbehaved with her and also made her 'uncomfortable' while she was protesting against the insult meted out to Babasaheb Ambedkar by the grand old party. "He misbehaved with me in a loud voice, and his physical proximity to me was so close that I, being a lady member, felt extremely uncomfortable," she said, adding, "I stepped aside with a heavy heart and felt that no Member of Parliament should behave this way." Meanwhile, Congress MP Hibi Eden wrote to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla stating that Konyak's allegation against Rahul Gandhi is "entirely fabricated and devoid of facts and is a malicious attempt at belittling the integrity of Leader of Opposition."

Sri Sri Ravi Shankar to give keynote address at UN on World Meditation Day on 21 Dec



BENGALURU, 19 DECEMBER

Global spiritual leader and humanitarian, Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, will guide a live World Meditation on Saturday, following the unanimous adoption of the United Nations General Assembly Resolution declaring 21 December as the World Meditation Day.

This historic event establishes an annual global celebration of meditation, recognising its transformative benefits for mental and physical health, as well as its power to foster peace and unity, an official release by the Art of Living stated on Wednesday.

The Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations in New York is marking the first-ever World Meditation Day at the UN headquarters on 20 December.

The commemorative event at the UN will feature a keynote address by Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar. This momentous occasion, themed 'Meditation for Global Peace and Harmony,' would mark the First World Meditation Day.

"The recognition of meditation by the United Nations is a profound step forward," said Gurudev. "Meditation nurtures the soul, calms the mind, and offers a solution to modern challenges," he added. AGENCIES

UP Assembly adjourned sine die after pandemonium over Ambedkar issue

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, 19 DECEMBER

Opposition members of the Samajwadi Party created pandemonium in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly on Thursday over Union Home Minister Amit Shah's statement on Dr B R Ambedkar in the Parliament forcing the Speaker Satish Mahana to adjourn the house sine die, one day before schedule.

As the House assembled for the day, the SP members raising slogans and demanding apology from the Union Home Minister, came in the well. Speaker tried to pacify them but his plea went unheard.

SP members had reached the assembly carrying the photo of Dr. Ambedkar and raised slogans like "Hin-

The winter session of the UP Assembly, which commenced on Monday last was scheduled to end tomorrow. During the session the House approved the second supplementary budget to the tune of over Rs 17,000 crores.

dustan will not tolerate this insult of Baba Saheb," and, "Jai Bhim".

There was a lot of uproar during the proceedings of the House and the Speaker completed the agenda amid noisy scene created by the SP members.

Leader of Opposition in the Assembly, Mata Prasad Pandey said that in a democracy everyone has right to protest and express their views, but this government is running in a dictatorial manner.

The House was scheduled to take up discussion

on Mahakumbh and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath was to speak on it. But it could not happen and only BJP MLA from Prayagraj Sidharth Nath Singh invited all legislators to the Mahakumbh. Later the Speaker adjourned the house sine die.

The winter session of the UP Assembly, which commenced on Monday last was scheduled to end tomorrow. During the session the House approved the second supplementary budget to the tune of over Rs 17,000 crores.

Fadnavis takes on Opposition in his first Assembly speech

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, 19 DECEMBER

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis made his first speech on Thursday, the fourth day of the six-day winter session of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, in Nagpur.

Addressing the assembly, he said, "The people of the state have given a good mandate. We were really happy when we got the mandate, but now that joy has faded since we have become aware of our responsibility."

Because when such a big mandate is received, the mandate brings responsibilities. It raises the expectations of the people. So, it is our responsibility to fulfill those expectations. Therefore, we will fully utilise our potential".

"During the last five years,



the way I and my family were targeted personally, from morning to evening, six to seven people would talk only about me, but thanks to them, people developed sympathy for me, after they saw my work for five years. I worked for the welfare of all people, regardless of caste or religion and this election has shown that caste is not so much in the minds of the people as much as it is in the minds of

politicians," Fadnavis said. "Those who tried to polarise others were destroyed, as society united and everyone voted for the Mahayuti. In the last 30 years, no one got 50 per cent of votes, which the Mahayuti managed to get. I had said that I am a modern Abhimanyu, that I can break the Chakravyuh (maze)."

There were attempts to create a maze from all four sides of me, but I am standing here today after breaking it. The credit for this is not mine. It belongs to my party and to the colleagues who work with me," he said.

"I want to assure everybody that no scheme will be ended. The December installment of the Laadki Bahin Yojana will be deposited in the accounts of our beloved sisters as soon as this assembly ses-

sion ends. There are no new norms, but some people have opened four Laadki Bahin Yojana accounts each. If anyone takes undue advantage of this scheme, it is our responsibility to stop them. We will fulfill the promises made to farmers, youth and the underprivileged," Fadnavis said.

Resorting to humour, the chief minister said, "(Ajit Pawar) Dada, people call you the permanent deputy chief minister, but I wish you all the very best. You must become the chief minister of Maharashtra one day".

Fadnavis also referred to a video clip gone viral on social media immediately after the 2024 Maharashtra assembly results were announced and it was reported that there are three contenders for the post of the Maharashtra chief minister.

Ambedkar row: Former Maha CM Chavan attacks Shah as BJP vandalises Mumbai Congress office

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, 19 DECEMBER

Senior Congress leader and former Maharashtra Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan lashed out against Union Minister Amit Shah's recent statement regarding Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar on Thursday, at an event in the town of Karad located in the Satara district of Maharashtra.

When asked about Prime Minister Modi criticising the Congress that it had always opposed Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar, Chavan said, "The BJP should launch an ideological attack. However, they have a tendency to divide society through hateful statements".

Chavan went on to criticise the BJP for targeting the Muslim community and said that the



BJP wants to bring back the caste system across the country.

He criticised BJP for failing to allocate ministerial portfolios even though a month has passed since the 2024 Maharashtra assembly election was declared. The present Mahayuti government merely wants to loot the state exchequer Chavan he alleged, adding that it is difficult for the Mahayuti parties to digest their landslide victory.

Meanwhile, BJP Yuva Mor-

cha workers attacked and vandalised the Congress headquarters in Mumbai after which the police dispersed the mob by resorting to a baton charge. Interestingly, the BJP workers attacked the Congress headquarters in Mumbai, claiming that the Congress had insulted Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar.

The attack began after BJP Yuva Morcha workers reached the Congress office near the Mumbai Press Club on Thursday and threw stones at the portrait of Rahul Gandhi at the office. After that, they picked up the chairs at the Congress headquarters and threw them around. Later, a large contingent of the Mumbai police was deployed outside the Congress office in South Mumbai, near Azad Maidan ground.

NPG evaluates 2 Railways, 3 Highway projects under PM GatiShakti NMP

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 19 DECEMBER

The 85th meeting of the Network Planning Group (NPG), evaluated five projects under the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan (NMP). They comprised two railways and three highway development projects.

The meeting was chaired by Joint Secretary of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Dr Surendra Ahiwar.

At the meeting, the two Railways projects discussed were Dangoaposi - Jaroli 3rd & 4th Line, and the Burhwal - Gonda Kacheri 4th Line.

The Dangoaposi-Jaroli project aims at constructing 85.88 km of 3rd and 4th Lines parallel to the existing corridor, spanning Jharkhand and Odisha.

These lines will play a critical role in transporting iron ore from the mineral-rich Keonjhar region to



industrial hubs and Paradip Port, ensuring seamless and efficient movement of bulk commodities like coal, gypsum, and fertilizers.

The Burhwal-Gonda Kacheri project involves a 55.75 km fourth rail line, complementing the existing double lines and ongoing third-line work. Located in Uttar Pradesh, the project enhances connectivity across Barabanki, Bahraich, and Gonda districts, improving both passenger and freight traffic.

The projects discussed under the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways were Barabanki-Bahraich, Kanpur Ring Road-Kabrai, and Singhana-Titanwar

roads.

The Barabanki-Bahraich project focuses on upgrading 101.54 km of NH-927 corridor to a four-lane configuration with six-lane structures. This improved connectivity will link Lucknow, Shrawasti Airport, NH-27, and the India-Nepal border, facilitating trade and reducing travel times across Uttar Pradesh and Northern India.

The Kanpur-Kabrai Highway project will develop a 118.8 km four-lane Greenfield highway with six-lane structures, connecting Kanpur Ring Road to Kabrai on NH-35. It integrates multi-modal connectivity to seven railway stations and three airports, enhancing accessibility across Kanpur, Hamirpur, and Mahoba districts.

Further, the Singhana-Titanwar project proposes a 40.725 km four-lane access-controlled Greenfield Highway along NH-311 in Rajasthan.

BJP's Ram Shinde unanimously elected Maharashtra Legislative Council chairperson

AGENCIES
NAGPUR, 19 DECEMBER

BJP legislator and former minister Ram Shinde was unanimously elected chairperson of the Maharashtra Legislative Council on Thursday.

Shinde filed his nomination as the Mahayuti nominee on Wednesday but the Maha Vikas Aghadi did not field its nominee in want of numbers.

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Deputy Chief Ministers Eknath Shinde and Ajit Pawar and Leader of the Opposition Ambadas Danve accompanied Ram Shinde to the Chair.

CM Fadnavis thanked the ruling and opposition members for Shinde's unanimous election as the Legislative Council's chairperson.

The state council chairperson's post fell vacant after Ramraje Nimbalkar's term expired on July 7, 2022. In the interim, the

Council's proceedings were presided over by Deputy Chairperson Neelam Gorhe.

BJP legislator Shrikant Bhartiya moved the resolution which was supported by Shiv Sena legislator Manish Kayande for Shinde's election as the chairperson. Another resolution was moved by BJP legislator Uma Khapre, which was supported by NCP legislator Amol Mitkari.

A similar resolution was moved by NCP legislator Shivajirao Garje and supported by BJP legislator Dnyaneshwar Mhatre. CM Fadnavis, in his speech congratulating Shinde, said, "Ram Shinde is a Professor. So he knows how to run a class. Earlier too, former chairperson N. S. Farande was a Professor who ran the House properly. I have no doubt that Shinde Sir will also run the House with great discipline but sensitivity."

Air Chief calls for cyber security at CAC meet

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 19 DECEMBER-

Air Chief Marshal AP Singh, Chief of the Air Staff (CAS), has called for a critical analysis of operational preparedness, a focus on maintenance practices, and the establishment of robust physical and cyber security measures. He said this while attending the Central Air Command (CAC) Commanders' Conference 2024 at its headquarters here today.

During the conference, he engaged with Commanders from the Central Air Command Area of Responsibility (AoR) and underscored the importance of understanding their roles in bolstering the Indian Air Force's operational capabilities. He provided an overview of the prevailing security environment and emphasized the vital role of the IAF in safeguarding national interests.

Highlighting the need

for maintaining a high state of readiness to tackle emerging challenges, the Air Chief urged Commanders to foster innovation and work towards self-reliance to enhance the combat capabilities of the Air Force.

The CAS also emphasized the importance of ensuring a safe operational flying environment and maintaining the IAF's core values of Mission, Integrity, and Excellence. In his address, he commended the Central Air Command for its significant contributions to IAF-level exercises, humanitarian assistance and disaster



relief (HADR) operations, and support to civil administrations.

The two-day conference served as a platform for senior IAF officials to discuss strategies, review operational readiness, and explore ways to strengthen the force's preparedness for emerging contingencies.

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL	GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
BIRDHUM ZILLA PARISHAD SURI, BIRDHUM. Abridged Notice Inviting e-Tender Tender Notice No. Birb-4-30-2024-25 Memo no-5064/31/1/BP. Dated: 19/12/2024 Online Tender ID-2024_ZPHD_786013	BIRDHUM ZILLA PARISHAD SURI, BIRDHUM. Abridged Notice Inviting e-Tender Tender Notice No. Birb-4-30-2024-25 Memo no-5064/31/1/BP. Dated: 19/12/2024 Online Tender ID-2024_ZPHD_786773
Additional Executive Officer, Birbhum Zilla Parishad Invites e-Tenders for 01 (One) nos of work. Detailed information including downloading and uploading time are available from the website www.ebtenders.gov.in.	Additional Executive Officer, Birbhum Zilla Parishad Invites e-Tenders for 04 (Four) nos of work. Detailed information including downloading and uploading time are available from the website www.ebtenders.gov.in.
Sd/- Additional Executive Officer, Birbhum Zilla Parishad. Memo No-1573/31/Inf/Birb. Dated: 19/12/2024	Sd/- Additional Executive Officer, Birbhum Zilla Parishad. Memo No-1573/31/Inf/Birb. Dated: 19/12/2024

THUMBNAILS

Cab driver arrested for sexually assaulting 4-year-old nursery child in Ranchi: A case of sexual assault of a four-year-old nursery male child in a private school in Ranchi has come to light and police have arrested the accused cab driver under the Pocso Act. However, the child's mother alleges that she had to suffer for two days to register an FIR with the police. The school management has also not taken any notice of her complaint, she alleged. The incident is from the BIT Mesra Outpost area of Ranchi. It is said that the child studying in a nursery in a school in the area informed family members about the dirty act of the school cab driver. His mother complained about this to the school principal, but he allegedly did not take any action. After this, she reached the BIT Mesra outpost to lodge a complaint. The child's mother says that here too she had to run around for two days. Her child's statement was taken several times in the police outpost. The police registered an FIR, but no action was taken on the allegations of negligence of the school management. She alleged that the police tried to save the school management. Jharkhand State Child Protection Commission member Ujjwal Prakash Tiwari said that the incident has come to the notice of the commission. "Necessary action will be taken by the commission in this matter," he said.

Longest surviving Hizbul leader runs out of luck

Farooq Bhat was among 5 terrorists killed in encounter in J&K's Kulgam



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 19 DECEMBER

In a major blow to terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, the longest surviving Hizbul Mujahideen commander, Farooq Ahmad Bhat alias Nalli, was among the five categorized terrorists killed on Thursday in an encounter in south Kashmir's Kadder village in Behibagh in Kulgam

district. Two security forces personnel were injured during the gunfight. Nalli, an 'A++ category terrorist' and a close aide of top terrorists Burhan Wani and Riyaz Naikoo, evaded forces for over a decade. He was involved in several attacks at civilians and security forces. Nalli joined terror ranks in May 2015 and had survived so far. The other four neu-

tralised HM terrorists have been identified as Mushtaq Itoo (Category-A+) , Adil Hazam (Category-B), Irfan Lone (Category-A) and Yassir Bhat (Category-C). Five AK-rifles and other explosive material were recovered from the neutralized terrorists, officials said. These terrorists belonging to HM outfit were killed in a fierce gunfight with security forces.

Search operation was continuing in the area and further details are awaited. Security forces launched a cordon and search operation at Kadder in the Behibagh area of the district on Wednesday night following information about the presence of suspected terrorists there, an official said. The search operation turned into an encounter as the terrorists opened fire on security forces and they retaliated. Bodies of five terrorists are lying in the orchards but have not been retrieved yet, police said. The Chinार Corps of the Indian Army wrote on X: "On 19 Dec 24, based on specific intelligence input regarding the presence of terrorists, a Joint Operation launched by Indian Army & JmukmrPolice at Kader, Kulgam. Suspicious activity was observed by vigilant troops and on being challenged, terrorists opened indiscriminate and heavy volume of fire. Own troops effectively retaliated. Operation is in progress." Meanwhile, the body of a cop was found under mysterious circumstances near the District Police Line in Rajouri. Havaldar Nazir Hussain Kohali, a resident of Kewel Budha, was discovered unconscious and was declared dead upon arrival at the hospital.

Removal of chapter on Sufi saint triggers controversy in J-K

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 19 DECEMBER

The alleged removal of a chapter on Kashmiri Sufi saint, mystic, poet and preacher Sheikh-ul-Alam from class 9 textbooks by the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (BOSE) has triggered a controversy. CPI(M) MLA Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami said this was unacceptable, while the Peoples Conference MLA Sajad Lone called the move "cultural terrorism". Ruling National Conference's chief spokesperson and MLA, Tanvir Sadiq in a post on X assured that the chapter on Sheikh-ul-Alam will not be removed from textbooks. The Education Minister has directed the Principal Secretary to address and rectify the issue found in the PDF version. Tarigami said: "It is deeply troubling that an entire chapter on the revered Sufi saint Sheikh-ul-Alam has been dropped from the Class IX textbook. This blue-pencilling, carried out prior to the Assembly polls, is unacceptable to a society rooted in rich Sufi traditions. I urge Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to intervene and ensure that this crucial chapter is reinstated, thereby preserving and honoring our rich cultural and Sufi heritage". Sajad Lone strongly condemned the move and called

NC chief spokesperson Tanvir Sadiq in a post on X said that the chapter on Sheikh-ul-Alam will not be removed from textbooks. The Education Minister has directed the Principal Secretary to rectify the issue found in the PDF version.

it a "pure cultural terrorism" and "an assault on our culture and ethos." Lone stated that Sheikh Noor-U-Din Wali has been revered by all Kashmiris, irrespective of religion and is held in the "highest esteem." He emphasised that in these times, "smudged with violence, greed and hatred," the great saint's life serves as a "beacon of hope and a role model for emulation." "Our great Saint and his Saintly ways were etched in our hearts and minds much before BOSE came into existence," Lone remarked. Urging for introspection, he strongly condemned the decision, reaffirming that the teachings and legacy of Sheikh Noor-U-Din Wali are an inseparable part of Kashmir's cultural and spiritual identity. It is worth mentioning that in 2006, the Srinagar international airport was renamed after the Sufi saint Sheikh-ul-Alam.

Wild fowl dinner row: Himachal BJP seeks FIR

AGENCIES
DHARAMSALA, 19 DECEMBER

The main Opposition BJP in Himachal Pradesh on Thursday demanded registration of a first information report (FIR) against those who killed a wildlife-protected bird species and served it at a dinner hosted for Chief Minister Sukhvirinder Singh Sukhu. Leader of Opposition and former Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur led lawmakers of the party and staged a protest over the killing of the bird, the red jungle fowl or "jungli murga", in nature before the onset of the Assembly session in Dharamsala, the state's winter capital. The species is a protected bird under the Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Act, 2022. It is a highly endangered species and is being replaced by genetically-mixed jungle fowl.

I Samaresh Kumar Roy 72 yrs SO of Kari Bhusan Roy RO 198/3 Biren Roy Road east Kol 8 declare that Samaresh Roy & Samaresh Kumar Roy is one & identical person vide affidavit 78006 dt 17/12/24 1st cls JM Alipore

Form No. 3
[See Regulation-15 (1)(a)] / 16(3)
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL KOLKATA (DRT 3)
8th Floor, Jeevan Sudha Building, 42-C,
Jawahar Lal Nehru Road, Kolkata-700071

Case No.: OA/1157/2016
Summons under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, read with sub-rule (2A) of rule 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993.

Exh. No.: 5294
PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK
VS
MS REZINA DRESSES AND ORS

To,
(1) MS REZINA DRESSES AND ORS
28-6 BAKHRA HAT ROAD, P.S.-THAKURPUKUR, KOLKATA
South Twenty Four Parganas, WEST BENGAL-700063
(2) SMT REZINA KHATUN
W/O SK ASGAR, PROPRIETOR OF M/S REZINA DRESSES, RESIDING AT - PO AND VILL.-RASAPUNGA, PS-BISHNUPUR SOUTH TWENTY FOUR PARGANAS, WEST BENGAL - 700104
(3) SK ASGAR
S/O-LATE KAHAT BART SK, GUARANTOR, RESIDING AT- PO AND VILL.-RASAPUNGA, PS-BISHNUPUR SOUTH TWENTY FOUR PARGANAS, WEST BENGAL - 700104
(4) SMT FIROZA KHATUN
D/O- DAUD ALI MOLLA, GUARANTOR, RESIDING AT PO AND VILL -RASAPUNGA, PS - BISHNUPUR SOUTH TWENTY FOUR PARGANAS, WEST BENGAL - 700104

SUMMONS
WHEREAS, OA/1157/2016 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/Registrar on 27/11/2024.

WHEREAS this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons/ notice on the said Application under section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of Rs. 1822031.61/- (application along with copies of documents etc. annexed). In accordance with sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, you, the defendants are directed as under:-

(i) to show cause within thirty days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted;
(ii) to disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application;
(iii) you are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties;
(iv) you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest is created and/ or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal;
(v) you shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realised by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets.

You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before Registrar on 07/04/2025 at 10.30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this date: 11/12/2024.
Sd/-
Registrar-In-Charge
Debts Recovery Tribunal-3, Kolkata

Key govt interventions in sci & tech for Viksit Bharat by 2047 highlighted



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 19 DECEMBER-

With a view to achieving the 'Viksit Bharat' 2047 goal, the government has been making several efforts through key interventions in the field of science and technology. Some of the notable efforts include instituting high-stake mission-driven initiatives, namely National Quantum Mission; National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems among others. The initiatives focus on the development of key technologies to reduce dependency on imports, promote domestic innovation, and position India as a global leader in the identified sectors. This information was given by Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences Dr. Jitendra Singh in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha. The government has launched several programmes to catalyse startup culture and build a strong and inclusive ecosystem for innovation and entrepreneurship in the country. Several strategic policy measures have been introduced by the Government including the Geospatial Policy 2022, the Space Policy 2023 and BioE3 (Biotechnology for Economy, Environment and Employment) Policy 2024. The government has established the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) through the ANRF Act 2023 for strengthening our technological leadership, marking a paradigm shift in our R&D ecosystem. The ANRF aims to drive a multi-phased roadmap for scientific breakthroughs and cross-sectoral collaboration, providing competitive, peer-reviewed grants to optimize resource allocation for high-impact research. ANRF aims to position India as a global

leader in innovative, sustainable technological progress. The Foundation has outlined multifaceted strategic interventions to enhance India's research ecosystem, aligning with national scientific and geopolitical priorities. To make India Viksit Bharat by 2047, the Sectoral Group of Secretaries (SGoS) on technology has held detailed discussions and many of the interventions are a result of these discussions. Some other actions emphasize strengthening research and innovation in the areas of Quantum Technologies, Cyber Physical Systems, Bio Manufacturing, etc. These efforts focus on technological self-reliance, sustainability, and economic growth, with a strong emphasis on R&D, skilled workforce development, and global leadership in emerging technologies. Through coordinated efforts across various sectors, the endeavour is to transform India into a scientifically advanced and innovation-driven economy, laying the foundation for Viksit Bharat by 2047. The efforts made by the government, through various programmes and policy measures, have helped the nation in improving its position in the Science and Technology at global level which is visible through its global position in scientific publications, number of Ph.Ds, number of start-ups, resident patent filing, Global Innovation Index, number of start-ups, etc. Some of the key highlights include India ranks 3rd in terms of number of research publications (2,07,390) as per Science & Engineering Indicators 2024 published by National Science Foundation (NSF), USA. India ranked 3rd in terms of the total number of startups (more than 1,40,000) in 2024 as per DPIIT. India ranks 4th

in the number of PhD degrees awarded (16,968) in Science and Engineering as per Science & Engineering Indicators 2024 published by National Science Foundation (NSF), USA. India is ranked at 6th position both in terms of resident (38551) and non-resident (38517) patent filing activity from respective countries as per WIPO Report, 2023. Number of researchers per million population has increased to 262 in 2020 as compared to 164 in 2009 as per DST R&D Statistics, 2022-23.

AIIMS-CENTRAL ARMED POLICE FORCES INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES CENTER
(AIIMS-CAPFIMS Center)
Maidangarhi, New Delhi-110068

Advertisement Notice No. 165/2024

No.F.AIIMS/32-1/2024 (SR-CAPRMS)/2025 Date: 13-12-2024

Recruitment to the post of Senior Residents for AIIMS-CAPFIMS Center, Maidangarhi, New Delhi-110068

Online applications are invited from Indian Citizens as per Govt. of India Residency Scheme, for the tenure posts of Senior Residents for a maximum period up to 3 years for AIIMS-CAPFIMS Center, Maidangarhi, New Delhi. The details are given below:

DATE FOR ONLINE REGISTRATION OF APPLICATIONS	
Registration Opens on	16th December, 2024
Registration Closes on	30th December, 2024 (up to 5.00 p.m.)
Date of CBT Examination (Stage-I)	15th January, 2025 (Wednesday) in Delhi / NCR
Duration & Timing of Exam	1½ hr. (10-00 a.m. to 11.30 a.m.)
Result of Stage-I CBT Examination	23rd January, 2025 (Thursday)
Date of Interview (Stage-II)	Will be announced later
Final Result & Joining	

Important: For detailed information etc. please visit the website www.aiimsexams.ac.in All applicants are required to visit the website regularly since all subsequent Corrigendum / Addendum / Updates will be uploaded on the website only.

Sd/-
ASSISTANT CONTROLLER (EXAMS)
CBC-17112/11/0048/2425

No. 15-02/2024-Restg.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

Department of Telecommunications

New Delhi

VACANCY CIRCULAR

Applications are invited from eligible and interested Indian nationals for one post of Member in the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT).

TDSAT is an Appellate Tribunal established under the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997 to hear various appeals under the said Act. The Tribunal exercises jurisdiction over Telecom, Broadcasting, IT, Airport tariff and the Aadhaar matters under the respective Acts. The Headquarter of TDSAT is situated at New Delhi.

The Qualification, other eligibility conditions for the post and the proforma of application are available in the websites of the Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions and TDSAT i.e. <http://www.persmin.nic.in> or <http://www.dopt.gov.in> or <http://www.tdsat.gov.in> respectively. The application in the prescribed proforma can be sent up to last date of 31st January, 2025 till 5-30 P.M.

Under Secretary to the Govt. of India

CBC 06201/11/0013/2425

AIRPORTS ECONOMIC REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA
(A Statutory Body of the Government of India)
3rd Floor, 'A' Block, Udaan Bhawan, Safdarjung Airport, New Delhi-110003
Ph.: 24695041, Website: <http://aera.gov.in>

VACANCY NOTICE

Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (AERA), invites applications from eligible candidates for filling up posts of Director (Policy & Statistics) – Pay Level 13 (01 No.), Sr. Principal Private Secretary – Pay Level 12 (01 No.), Under Secretary (Policy & Statistics) – Pay Level 11 (04 Nos.), Under Secretary (Information Technology) – Pay Level 11 (01 No.), Bench Officer (Legal) – Pay Level 11 (01 No.), Principal Private Secretary – Pay Level 11 (01 No.), Technical Manager (Information Technology) – Pay Level 10 (01 No.), Private Secretary – Pay Level 8 (02 Nos.), Assistant – Pay Level 7 (01 No.), Personal Assistant – Pay Level 7 (02 Nos.), Junior Hindi Translator – Pay Level 6 (01 No.), Stenographer – Pay Level 4 (05 Nos.), Receptionist-cum-Telephone Operator – Pay level 2 (01 No.) in New Delhi on deputation basis. The Authority is in process of amending recruitment rules for enabling absorption of personnel in AERA. The candidates selected for deputation may also be considered for permanent absorption in this office, based on extant guidelines and the rules post amendment. Details are available on AERA's website <http://aera.gov.in> Last date for receipt of applications is 20-01-2025 till 5-30 p.m. Corrigendum/Addendum, if any, in this regard would be published only on AERA's Website.

Note: The vacancies are liable to change without notice and without assigning any reason.

Sd/-
Deputy Chief, AERA

CBC 03112/12/0012/2425

Regulation of trains for Traffic & Power Block over Howrah Division

In connection with Construction of Bow String Girder Bridge with pile foundation for new 2 (two) Lane Benaras Road Over Bridge including approaches between Howrah & Lilluah stations at Km 2/57-59 of Howrah Division, for Launching of 66 meter Span Girder Traffic & Power Block will be required from 21.12.2024 to 01.02.2025. Consequently following arrangements in train running have been made :-

- CANCELLATION of EMU Trains [From 21.12.2024 (Saturday) to 22.01.2025 (Wednesday)] From Bandel to Howrah : 37212, 37214, 37216, 37218, 37220(SUE), 37222, 37230, 37232, 37236, 37244, 37250, 37254, 37264(SUE), 37278, 37288 (Total-15). From Seoraphuli to Howrah : 37042(SUE), 37044(SUE), 37046 (SUE), 37048, 37050, 37052(SUE), 37056, 37058, 37060, 37062(SUE), 37064(SUE) (Total-11). From Belur Math to Howrah : 37112, 37118 (Total-2). From Shirampur to Howrah : 37012(SUE), 37014(SUE) (Total-2). From Howrah to Bandel : 37215, 37231, 37237, 37243, 37249, 37253, 37255, 37257, 37263, 37267, 37201 (SUE), 37271, 37275, 37277, 37285 (Total-15). From Howrah to Seoraphuli : 37041 (SUE), 37043 (SUE), 37045 (SUE), 37047, 37049, 37051(SUE),37055, 37057, 37059, 37061(SUE), 37063 (SUE) (Total-11). From Howrah to Belur Math : 37111, 37117 (Total-2). From Howrah to Shirampur : 37011(SUE), 37013(SUE) (Total-2).
- DIVERSION from Howrah : 03051 UP Howrah - Barddhaman MEMU Special will be diverted via Howrah - Barddhaman Chord Line from 23.12.2024 to 28.12.2024.
- CONTROLLING [From 23.12.2024 (Monday) to 28.12.2024 (Saturday)] : (1) 12370 DN Dehradun - Howrah Kumbha Express will be controlled enroute for 50 minutes on 24.12, 25.12, 26.12 & 28.12.2024. (2) 12328 DN Dehradun - Howrah Upasana Express will be controlled enroute for 50 minutes on 23.12.2024 & 27.12.2024. (3) 15272 DN Muzaffarpur - Howrah Jansadharan Express will be controlled enroute for 60 minutes on 25.12.2024. (4). 15236 DN Darbhanga-Howrah Weekly Express will be controlled enroute for 60 minutes on 28.12.2024. (5). 13030 DN Mokama - Howrah Express will be controlled enroute for 25 minutes from 23.12.2024 to 28.12.2024 (6). 03004 DN Azimganj - Howrah Passenger Special will be controlled enroute for 10 minutes from 23.12.2024 to 28.12.2024 (7). 13024 DN Gaya - Howrah Express will be controlled enroute for 30 minutes from 23.12.2024 to 28.12.2024 (8). 13022 DN Raxaul - Howrah Mithila Express will be controlled enroute for 10 minutes from 23.12.2024 to 28.12.2024. ● RESCHEDULING from Howrah [From 29.12.2024 (Sunday) to 01.02.2025 (Saturday)] : (1). 03051 UP Howrah - Barddhaman MEMU Special will be rescheduled at 03:30 hrs. instead of 01:50 hrs. ● CONTROLLING [From 29.12.2024 (Sunday) to 01.02.2025 (Saturday)] : (1). 12370 DN Dehradun - Howrah Kumbha Express will be controlled enroute for 50 minutes on 29.12.2024, 31.12.2024, 01.01, 02.01, 04.01, 05.01, 07.01, 08.01, 09.01, 11.01, 12.01, 14.01, 15.01, 16.01, 18.01, 19.01, 21.01, 22.01, 23.01, 25.01, 26.01, 28.01, 29.01, 30.01 & 01.02.2025. (2). 12328 DN Dehradun - Howrah Upasana Express will be controlled enroute for 50 minutes on 30.12.2024, 03.01, 06.01, 10.01, 13.01, 17.01, 20.01, 24.01, 27.01 & 31.01.2025. (3). 15272 DN Muzaffarpur - Howrah Jansadharan Express will be controlled enroute for 60 minutes on 01.01, 08.01, 15.01, 22.01. & 29.01.2025. (4). 15236 DN Darbhanga - Howrah Express will be controlled enroute for 60 minutes on 04.01, 11.01, 18.01, 25.01 & 01.02.2025. (5). 13030 DN Mokama - Howrah Express will be controlled enroute for 25 minutes from 29.12.2024 to 01.02.2025 (6). 03004 DN Azimganj - Howrah Passenger Special will be controlled enroute for 10 minutes from 29.12.2024 to 01.02.2025 (7). 13024 DN Gaya - Howrah Express will be controlled enroute for 30 minutes from 29.12.2024 to 01.02.2025 (8). 13022 DN Raxaul - Howrah Mithila Express will be controlled enroute for 10 minutes from 29.12.2024 to 01.02.2025. **Special Note:-** Special or Late Running Trains & any further newly introduced train/Parcel Train/TOD, if any, will be controlled / diverted suitably enroute during block. Passengers are requested to follow the public Address System of stations. Inconvenience is deeply regretted.

Divisional Railway Manager/Howrah

EASTERN RAILWAY

Follow us at : @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

Why now?

As Ravichandran Ashwin landed in Chennai on Thursday morning, even before news of his shock retirement from international cricket had sunk in, one message was clear. Having decided to hang up his boots, the champion off-spinner seemed eager to get away as soon as possible from the team of which he had been an integral part for so long. Indeed, it must have taken a feat of scheduling to fly from Brisbane to Chennai in the time he did, considering there are no direct flights between the two cities. But uncomfortable questions, based on indubitable presumptions, must be asked and will at some stage have to be answered. Why would Ashwin, lauded for his team spirit, choose to bid adieu to the game midway through a crucially important Test series unless he was told in clear terms that the team management saw no further role for him in Australia, reasoning that would likely carry over to India's Test engagements in England next summer? There was no problem with his form or fitness. This winter itself, he has bagged important wickets, been the Man of the Series, scored invaluable runs and even held a blinder of a catch. India has played different spinners in each of the three Tests in Australia, and of them Ashwin seemed the most in control of his craft. Of course, he had a difficult time against New Zealand at home, but so did every other player. Thus, if the selectors believed he was good enough to travel to Australia, why were the coach and captain convinced that he was not good enough to play Tests? After all, you do not take a bowler with 500 plus wickets to the other end of the world to carry drinks or to bowl in the nets. The disconnect between the national and tour selectors must be explained at some point of time.

The second aspect of Ashwin's career and abrupt retirement that must be considered is whether the presumption of his being a home-conditions bowler is valid, and whether on that basis it was fair to bench him as often as he was picked overseas. It is universally acknowledged that Ashwin is a thinking bowler, one who has always strived to find solutions to problems that batsmen pose. As the finest spin bowler India has produced in the past decade and more, and one whose form and fitness have remained consistent, he ought to have been assured of a place in every playing XI regardless of the conditions. Yet, in the 140-odd Tests India has played since Ashwin made his debut, he was dropped on more than 30 occasions, a shocking statistic when one considers the fact that he has scored more Test hundreds than any other Indian spin bowler. For a man of exceptional skills, it must have been galling to see his place being taken by mediocre medium-pacers who were presumed to bat a little better than him, but seldom did. While we celebrate Ashwin's stellar achievements, his departure leaves a sour taste in the mouth.

At a crossroads

The United Kingdom's economy has encountered a challenging phase, with consecutive monthly declines in GDP marking the first back-to-back contraction since the tumultuous days of the Covid-19 lockdowns. This signals a precarious balancing act for policymakers striving to stabilise short-term economic performance while fostering long-term growth. The latest data underscores systemic vulnerabilities. Manufacturing and construction output has weakened, the services sector has stalled, and trade figures reveal a concerning dip in both imports and exports. Businesses are grappling with an atmosphere of uncertainty, compounded by the anticipation and immediate aftermath of new fiscal policies. While consumer confidence has seen a modest lift, it remains insufficient to offset the broader economic stagnation. At the heart of this scenario lies the government's ambitious budget. Designed to reinvigorate the economy, it comes with difficult decisions, including higher taxes for businesses and increased social security contributions. Such measures, though necessary to address fiscal gaps and invest in public infrastructure, risk dampening business sentiment and deterring private sector activity in the short term. The approach is not without precedent; many advanced economies adopt austerity or investment-heavy strategies to recalibrate during periods of sluggish growth. However, the UK's unique post-Brexit trade challenges and lingering pandemic-related disruptions add layers of complexity to the equation.

Critics have pointed to the immediate adverse effects of the fiscal strategy, including reduced corporate activity and strained employer finances. Yet, it is crucial to view these measures through a broader lens. Public investment in infrastructure, healthcare, and education has the potential to deliver substantial economic dividends in the medium to long term. Such investments not only stimulate domestic demand but also create an enabling environment for businesses to thrive, provided there is clarity and consistency in execution. The UK's sluggish recovery relative to its peers in the developed world adds urgency to this debate. Only Germany, similarly burdened by high energy costs and supply chain issues, fares worse in growth metrics. This reflects deeper structural issues, including a labour market influx, energy price shocks, and fragile consumer spending power. The Bank of England, with its cautious approach to monetary policy, also faces a difficult task. Interest rate cuts, while tempting, could exacerbate inflationary pressures and destabilise already fragile investor confidence. The path forward requires deft coordination between fiscal and monetary policies to balance growth aspirations with economic stability. Ultimately, the UK's current economic trajectory is a reminder of the inherent tension between short-term sacrifices and long-term goals. Success will depend on the government's ability to communicate its vision effectively, mitigate immediate hardships for businesses and households, and ensure that promised growth materialises. The road ahead may be rocky, but with prudent governance and sustained effort, there is hope for a more resilient and inclusive economic future.

A reset in ties

Misri's discussions extended beyond immediate concerns to broader bilateral issues, including border management, trade, connectivity, and cooperation in water and energy sectors. Both sides emphasized the need for a constructive approach to rebuild trust and strengthen ties. Yunus described the India-Bangladesh relationship as 'very solid' and reiterated his commitment to addressing mutual concerns, urging India to help 'clear the clouds' overshadowing bilateral relations



Against a backdrop of rapidly deteriorating relations between India and Bangladesh, Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri's recent visit to Dhaka marked a crucial effort to restore bilateral ties. The historically robust relationship between the two nations has frayed following significant political upheaval in Bangladesh and rising tensions over minority rights. This visit, the first high-level engagement since the ouster of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in August, was aimed at addressing shared concerns and fostering dialogue.

The political crisis in Bangladesh has significantly strained ties with India. Following Sheikh Hasina's resignation and subsequent exile to India, the interim government led by Professor Muhammad Yunus has struggled to maintain stability. Law and order in the country has steadily declined. Allegations of increasing violence against minorities, particularly Hindus, have heightened tensions.

Reports of attacks on Hindu temples and cultural sites, including the Indian government-run Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre in Dhaka, have drawn sharp criticism from New Delhi. The arrest of a prominent Hindu monk, Chinmoy Krishna Das, on sedition charges further fuelled unrest, prompting protests in Indian states bordering Bangladesh and retaliatory demonstrations in Dhaka.

Hindus and other minorities who constitute nearly 8 per cent of Bangladesh's 170 million population have faced increased violence in the wake of Hasina's removal. Historically associated with Hasina's Awami League, these communities now face heightened threats as right-wing forces gain prominence.

While India has expressed concerns over the surge in extremist rhetoric and violence, the Yunus government initially dismissed these claims, asserting that minorities are better

protected under the current administration. They even argued that it was their internal matter and India should not interfere in this.

However, the religious and diplomatic tensions risk undermining the stability that characterized India-Bangladesh relations during Hasina's tenure. Under her leadership, the two nations enjoyed close cooperation, reflected in robust trade and security ties. Bilateral trade reached \$14 billion in 2023-24, and the partnership played a pivotal role in regional stability. The current strain threatens to derail this progress, with potential repercussions for trade, cultural exchanges, and security collaboration.

Acting Foreign Secretary Riaz Hamidullah and Indian envoy Pranay Verma have acknowledged the challenges but emphasized the importance of maintaining open communication channels and working toward shared aspirations for peace and development.

India's "Neighbourhood First" policy underscores the strategic significance of Bangladesh, given their shared 4,000-km border and interlinked security and economic interests. Yunus has also highlighted the mutual benefits of close ties, stressing that transient issues should not overshadow the broader goal of maintaining strong bilateral relations.

International actors, including the United States and the United Kingdom, have expressed concern over the situation but are unlikely to intervene significantly given other global crises and domestic priorities. Resolving the current tensions will depend on the ability of India and Bangladesh to engage

in constructive dialogue and rebuild trust.

Foreign Secretary Misri's visit on December 9 sought to address these mounting issues. In meetings with his Bangladeshi counterpart Mohammad Jashim Uddin and interim government head Muhammad Yunus, Misri conveyed India's concerns over the safety and welfare of minorities in Bangladesh.

Following his visit, Dhaka acknowledged the violence, disclosing that 88 attacks on minorities had been reported between August and October, primarily targeting Hindus. They confirmed that 88 cases had been registered and 70 individuals

linked to these incidents were arrested.

Despite these admissions, Bangladeshi authorities maintained that some violence stemmed from personal disputes or political affiliations, downplaying the religious motivations.

Misri's discussions extended beyond immediate concerns to broader bilateral issues, including border management, trade, connectivity, and cooperation in water and energy sectors.

Both sides emphasized the need for a constructive approach to rebuild trust and strengthen ties. Yunus described the India-Bangladesh relationship as "very solid" and reiterated his commitment to addressing mutual concerns, urging India to help "clear the clouds" overshadowing bilateral relations.

The visit underscored the complexities of the current India-Bangladesh relationship. India has historically supported Sheikh Hasina's leadership, viewing her government as a



ANAND KUMAR
The writer is Associate Fellow, Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies & Analyses

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

editor@thestatesman.com

Presidential tone

SIR, This refers to the editorial, "Political minefield" (December 17). Francois Bayrou's appointment is the consecration par excellence of a shift in power from the Élysée Palace to the Hôtel de Matignon.

None other than President Macron was aware of it so much so that he tried till the last to abort this nomination.

With an imminent threat of Bayrou withdrawing support of

the thirty-six deputies of the party (MoDem) which he leads in the National Assembly, Macron was obliged to cede to him in order to preserve his presidential coalition in parliament.

The critical difference between Bayrou and Macron's previous prime ministers is that Macron owed nothing to the latter but indeed his whole election in 2017 to the crucial support from the former.



Bayrou, a three-time losing presidential candidate, has always harboured ambitions for the top job. It is Bayrou actually who championed the notion of centrism for years in French politics which Macron exploited to his advantage in winning the presidency.

While Bayrou will be facing the same parliament and balance of power as his predecessor, Michel Barnier, the terms of engagement will be dictated not by Macron but by Bayrou himself, relegating the former to his exclusive domain of defense and foreign affairs.

It is significant that Bayrou, in his opening statement, made no mention of previous prime ministers but of the French King Henri IV, a champion of reconciliation of opposing camps in French history.

The presidential tone of the new prime minister is evident for all to see.

Yours, etc., Animesh Rai,
Noida, 17 December.

UCC

SIR, This refers to today's editorial "India's Unity". The Uniform Civil Code (UCC) is often seen as a means to promote national unity by establishing a common framework of personal laws that apply equally to all citizens, regardless of religion, caste, or gender. Proponents believe that the UCC can bridge societal divisions by eliminating disparities in laws governing marriage, divorce, inheritance, and other personal matters, which vary across religious communities.

By introducing a uniform legal structure, the UCC is seen as a step toward achieving equality and secularism, as envisioned in Article 44 of the Constitution. Supporters argue that such a code would strengthen the idea of a unified India where every citizen is treated equally under the law.

On the other hand, critics caution that implementing the UCC could undermine the country's rich cultural diversity and pluralistic ethos. They argue that personal laws are deeply rooted in religious and cultural practices, and imposing a uniform code might lead to feelings of alienation among minority communities. Moreover, concerns have been raised about the potential misuse of the UCC as a political tool rather than a genuine effort to ensure justice and equality. A balanced approach, emphasising dialogue and consensus, is essential to ensure that the UCC harmonises the principles of equality with respect for cultural identities, fostering unity without eroding diversity.

Yours, etc., Narayanan Kizhumundayur,
Thrissur, 19 December.

Shaping our own narrative

As 2024 draws to a close, the Western world's moral facade crumbles, revealing a stark hypocrisy in global power dynamics. The once-celebrated guardians and founders of international law now stand exposed, their principles selectively applied like a strategic weapon.

From Ukraine to Gaza, narrative manipulation has become clearly visible and transparent - international norms twisted to serve the geopolitical interests of Western nations.

The UN Security Council, once a beacon of justice, now appears a mere instrument of political convenience and veto power for pure vested interests. When powerful nations weaponise their narrative to write the global order, justice itself becomes the ultimate casualty.

The mask of Western moral righteousness disintegrated with Hamas's attack on the State of Israel on 7 October 2023. As Israel's military machine decimated civilian populations, including doctors, journalists, children, and women, UN members failed to end this conflict. Tens of thousands of Palestinian civilians, including women and children, continue to suffer death and destruction.

The United Nations' repeated ceasefire calls were contemptuously vetoed, revealing an unprecedented level of diplomatic cynicism. While Russian actions triggered immediate international condemnation, Israel's calculated obliteration of Gaza receive-



ed diplomatic cover and media obfuscation. The hypocrisy is not just political - it is a fundamental betrayal of human rights as even reputed global media have turned their narratives to suit the interests of the West.

These inconsistencies weaken their credibility and embolden critics who argue that Western advocacy for democracy and human rights is less about universal principles and more about strategic interests.

Amidst this global disarray, Bhutan offers an instructive example of how smaller nations can craft narratives that align with their unique values and aspirations.

Despite establishing diplomatic relations with Israel in 2020 - a move that could have placed it in an awkward position during the Gaza conflict - Bhutan has maintained its principled stance on international issues. It was among the 143 countries to recognise Palestine as a state and this week voted for an unconditional ceasefire in Gaza at the UN General Assembly.

This delicate balancing act reflects our philosophy rooted in Gross National Happiness (GNH) and national ethos. As we prepare to celebrate our 117th National Day, it is worth reflecting on how we can guide our nation through our narrative around Gelephu Mindfulness City (GMC) as an attractive destination for investment while staying true to our values of sustainability and inclusivity.

The global governance narrative, orchestrated by a few powerful nations, is framed as a rules-based order serving their vested interests. Bhutan's Gross National Happiness (GNH) has evolved into a strategic branding tool, transforming ethical aspirations into geopolitical currency.

With calculated precision, our monarchs have reimaged national philosophy as an international pitch, turning idealism into economic opportunity and principled vision into a tangible global product through Gelephu Mindfulness City (GMC).



Dying to kill

SANKAR SEN

It is reported in the press that in Pakistan, 12 security personnel were killed last month when a suicide bomber rammed an explosive-laden vehicle into a check post in Pakistan's north-western Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Of late, there has been an escalation of suicide bombing attacks by terrorists in Pakistan.

Hafis Gul Bahadur, a militant organisation affiliated with the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan, claimed responsibility for this night raid. Pakistan says that TTP, which the USA lists as a global terrorist organisation, is orchestrating the deadly violence from sanctuaries in Afghanistan. Kabul has stoutly denied the allegations

uicide bombing is becoming the most dreaded form of terrorist attack in many countries of the world. In India, suicide bombing was not witnessed in the early days of terrorism in Kashmir and Punjab. The first and most daring case of suicide bombing was the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi by LTTE cadres in 1991. The Chief Minister of Punjab, Sardar Beant Singh was the next victim of suicide terrorism in Chandigarh in August 1995. The first suicide bombing in Kashmir took place in April 1999, in the Badami Bagh area of Srinagar, when a Jaish militant launched a suicide attack on Indian Army 15 Corps Headquarters.

Suicide bombing first hogged the limelight in April 1983, when the terrorist network of Hezbollah attacked the American Embassy in Beirut, and later, in the same year, devastated the US Marine headquarters in Lebanon.

The success of the Hezbollah suicide bombing inspired the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam to resort to suicide bombings on a huge scale

in their operations. The suicide bombers constituted an elite corps and occupied a privileged position in LTTE. They were separated from ordinary cadre, and kept in isolation. The Tigers are perhaps the only terrorist outfit responsible for the assassination of two former prime ministers - Rajiv Gandhi and Premadasa of Sri Lanka. LTTE's suicide missions were planned with minute attention to detail, and precisely executed with lethal impact. The LTTE cadre responsible for the assassination of Premadasa infiltrated into his staff, and remained inactive for nearly two years, before embarking on the deadly mission.

Research in the field has shown that most suicide bombing missions are not "lone wolf" operations. They are meticulously planned by a terrorist network. The suicide bombers are trained, motivated and radicalised before being sent on their missions. For organizing successful bombing operations, there is need for extensive underground preparation and coordination. Explosives have to be smuggled and stored properly and safely, for which reliable local support is needed.

The damage inflicted by suicide bombings is both physical and psychological, and to inflict maximum damage the bombers rely heavily on the element of surprise. Surprise is generated by turning the everyday into a weapon. For instance, suicide bombers often wear their explosives underneath their clothing, carry them in backpacks, or even hide them in bicycle frames. Frequently, to inflict even greater damage, suicide bombers drive vehicles packed with explosives into the targets.

The use of suicide bombing has grown for three main reasons. First, suicide bombing is almost impossi-



ble for security forces to prevent. Second, media attention is almost like oxygen to the terrorist and suicide bombings generate great publicity and receive enormous news coverage. Third, suicide bombings require little expertise and few resources beyond a bomb and someone willing to carry it, thus is more cost effective than other tactics.

The growth in suicide bombing has often been linked to the rise of religion-inspired terrorist violence, but this is not totally correct. American political scientist Robert Pape has argued that prior to 2003, a group that often resorted to suicide bombings was LTTE, a secular, separatist, ethnic group from Sri Lanka.

Though religion is often misused to justify suicide bombings, studies have shown that many suicide bombers, particularly in developed societies, are not fanatics and a significant number of bombers come from income and education levels well above their country's norms.

Suicide bombers pose serious security hazards. It is very difficult to detect and prevent such bombers, who can always spring a surprise. But the task of suicide bombers can be made more difficult and burdensome, and the impact of the strike may be reduced by adopting various measures like strict access control, strengthening of verification procedures, etc.

There should be constant training and drill of the security personnel deployed for protection of VIPs and other possible targets and sensitive installations. There are instances where alertness of the security staff has prevented, or foiled lethal strikes. Regular briefing and constant simulated exercises are necessary to hone skills, and sharpen responses. Along with the refinement of skills, there should be upgradation of equipment and weaponry available to the security personnel.

(The writer is Senior Fellow - Institute of Social Sciences, a former Director General of the National Human Rights Commission and former Director, National Police Academy.)

The night the music refused to die

MAHIR ALI

Back in the early 1980s, when Akbar S. Ahmed was contemplating whether Pakistan could be Japan, he might have missed an opportunity to focus on a more viable (although less desirable) East Asian role model for capitalist development.

Despite relentless military-dominated authoritarian rule peppered with bouts of martial law and brutal suppression of popular unrest, the economy grew in leaps and bounds through the 1960s and beyond, overtaking North Korea in the 1970s.

Even though the first president following the introduction of a recognisable form of bourgeois democracy in 1987 was a former general and a protégé of the preceding dictator, ever since (unlike Pakistan) there has rarely been any serious threat of a return to military rule despite instances of political dysfunction and public dissatisfaction. Until this month.

President Yoon Suk Yeol's late-night announcement on December 3 was therefore greeted with shock within and outside South Korea. Yoon deployed military troops and police contingents to keep legislators out of parliament, but they managed to gather in sufficient numbers to formally rescind the measure.

Martial law lasted barely for six hours, which is probably a world record. To their credit, neither the soldiers nor the police seemed particularly keen to use violence against either the parliamentarians or the thousands of citizens who had gathered outside on a freezing night to resist their unpopular president's decree.

South Koreans under 40 have no direct experience of military rule, but they've heard horror stories from their

parents about the ruthless repression and draconian curbs on freedom of thought and action. And even those among the older generations who look back on past instances of military rule as a necessary safeguard against largely exaggerated Cold War threats have no desire to revisit that era.

They are sceptical about Yoon's reliance on similar excuses in 2024 to justify his deed, viewed as a desperate bid for self-preservation. He was elected president in 2022 by the narrowest margin in his nation's history, and his popularity has dwindled from the low 20s to 11 per cent as of last week. The move to impeach him succeeded on the second try last Saturday, as 12 of the 108 MPs from his (ironically named) People Power Party (PPP) provided the required two-thirds majority in parliament.

The constitutional court has six months to deliver a final verdict on Yoon's suspended presidency. Four of its six judges were appointed by Yoon, and even a single dissenting vote could preserve him in power until 2027. But there are three vacancies on the bench, and if the opposition-heavy assembly fills them quickly, that would likely tilt the scales, triggering a mid-2025 presidential election.

It's hard to imagine a verdict before the Trump takeover, though, and its possible effects are unpredictable. Yoon's right-wing populist and authoritarian tendencies should endear him to Donald Trump, but the once and future US leader also has a soft spot for North Korea's Kim Jong-un, and wants Seoul to pay more for the 28,500 American troops still posted on the peninsula 70-plus years after the end of the Korean War.

The Biden administration has overlooked Yoon's anti-democratic tendencies to entrench an anti-



China coalition with South Korea and Japan as its primary Pacific components. Political instability in either partner nation should perturb the imperial centre, but Washington was predictably limp in its response to the coup attempt in Seoul. Meanwhile Japan, which hosts more than 50,000 US troops on Okinawa almost 80 years after American atomic bombs destroyed Hiroshima and Nagasaki, is also at risk of political turbulence after Fumio Kishida bowed out this year.

South Korea won't be well-served if, by any mischance, Yoon escapes his current suspension to serve out the rest of his term. What can be guaranteed, though, is that he will face an even more hostile parliament and a steady stream of anti-government popular mobilisations that, combined with the security establishment's unwillingness to facilitate his ambitions, should thwart further regressive designs.

Neither the nation's 'chaebolic' corporate capitalism model nor its US

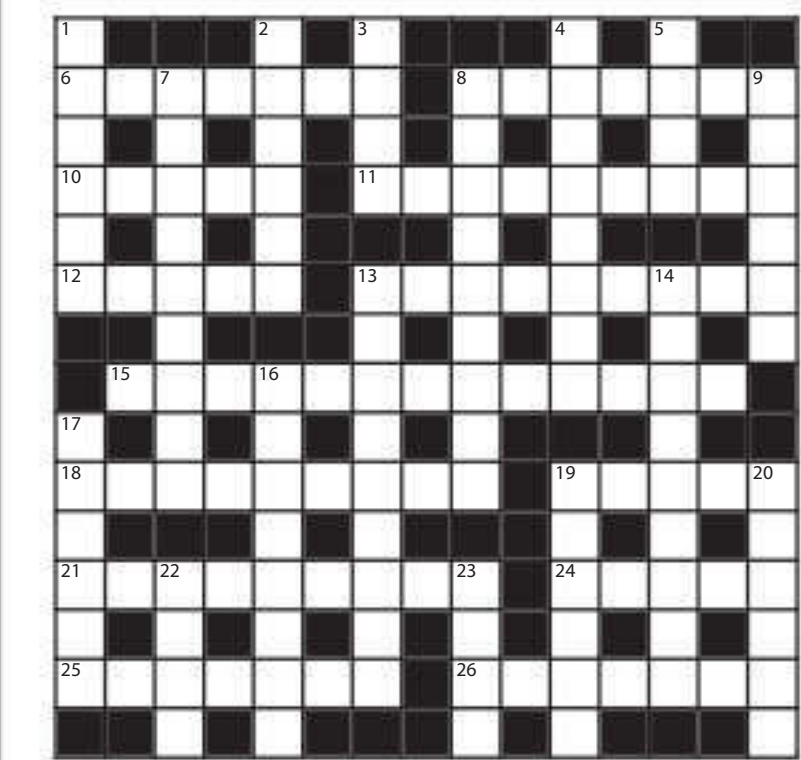
alignment is likely to substantially shift in the event of power shifting to the opposition Democratic Party.

But all who defended its flawed democracy against something much worse deserve credit for sustaining South political progress since the 1980s, and one can only hope that the American Pie-singing Yoon will be remembered chiefly for the night the music refused to die, followed by a bye-bye.

Dawn/ANN.

CROSSWORD

NO-292995



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

APSE I CONOCLAST
SYLROO L L O
TORNADO ROOTLET
R I T R W M A T A
ORANG BLACKBALL
N T E A N A N
AMBERGRIS NICHE
U E T P A R A D E N
T E E T H P A R A D E N
F A L L E A N T
GREENMAIL GULAIG
R A L C A G E H
ASTRIDE PRESENT
P E F B S R G E
HORSEPOWER SHIN

ACROSS

- 6 Love following the example of US singer/actor? (7)
8 Sash worn, mostly decorated (7)
10 Recording almost entirely worthless (5)
11 Starts to turn ravaging, without intervention dropping to upsetting (9)
12 Subordinate not quickly losing head (5)
13 Orange pip blown about in St Paul's Tube? (5,4)

- 15 Seal fate: explorer soon goes travelling east (4,4,5)
18 Borrow book? French novel you once observed to be about railway (6,3)
19 Old man restraining people heading off for a dance (5)
21 Bar quiet during story by Republican newsman (9)
24 Ostensibly the Mechanical Turk's Rook also retracted, pinning Bishop (5)
25 Appears, needing drink after shock (5,2)

- 26 Tart on side of Parisian street recalled French idler (7)

DOWN

- 1 Quickly write section on swimming stroke (6)
2 Time to suppress belief and sadness (6)
3 Encourage moderate Tory about heroin (4)
4 Email rude comments on sergeant's dancing (8)

- 5 Search disposing of Queen's concern (4)
7 More black wool tangled in space (5-4)
8 Adventure novel unexpectedly about geese, nothing less (4,5)
9 Distinctive stamp long observed in court (6)
13 Possession? Last of men in his power at sea (9)
14 What this is until it isn't? (9)

- 16 Flying kites filled with writing material - most abnormal (8)
17 Bishop half-throttled by his superior? That's right (6)
19 Opening place to go for pop festivals? Loves to get away (6)
20 Queen avoiding area linked to unknown highway (6)
22 Attractive gesture current in the North (4)
23 Ransack, tossing lire all over the place (4)

NOTE: Figures in parentheses denote the number of letters in the words required. (By arrangement with The Independent, London)

100 YEARS AGO

OCCASIONAL NOTE

IT was improbable that even with the best of good fortune the M. C. C. would manage to pull the first Test Match out of the fire against an Australian lead of 604 on the two innings, but to make a record fourth innings score was a secondary triumph. The games now stand : Australian wins 44, English 40, drawn 21. Heavy as the scoring was, 1,611 for 40 wickets, it falls well short of the record of 1753 at Adelaide in 1920, when Australia won by 119 (354 and 582 against 447 and 370). Then also as in this game six centuries were scored, including 123 by Hobbs in the last innings. Six centuries is the record. England's last win was at the Oval in 1912, when Australia could total only 111 and 65, and lost by 244. Since then 11 matches have been played—all of them wins for Australia except the last two in 1921, drawn after heavy scoring. The cabled accounts have criticized the Australian fielding, but there appears to have been nothing wrong with the wicket-keeping on either side. Strudwick made 5 catches, and Australia's extras totalled only 26, while Oldfield made 3 catches and the M. C. C.'s extras were 17. The three newcomers to the Australian side, the two Richardsons and Ponsford, have proved themselves additions of strength, A. Richardson only failing by 2 runs to get a century on his first appearance. England was set the task of getting 604 to win, a number never obtained in a Test Match innings, the highest figures being 589 by England at Melbourne in 1911 and 586 by Australia at Sydney in 1894. A total of over 500 has been scored on twelve occasions.

NEWS ITEMS

MR. GANDHI & AKALIS

CONGRESS INQUIRY COMMITTEE

MR. GANDHI arrived here this morning from Lahore accompanied by Maulana Shaukat Ali, Messrs. Jamna-lal Bajaj, Shankerlal Banker, C. R. Reddy, and Desai. No public demonstrations were held in his honour.

Mr. Gandhi had a long talk with Sardar Mangal Singh about the Akali activities. He discussed the preliminaries of the "Akali Repression Inquiry Committee" and settled its programme of work. He asked Dr. Kitchlew to act as its chairman, Seth Jannalal Bajaj, Mr. C. R. Reddy, and Khwaja Abdul Rahman Ghazi as members. The committee commences its work from December 7 and will visit Bhai Pheru, Lyallpur, Jullundur and other villages of the Amritsar district. It is understood that they have wired to the Administrator, Nabha, for permission to study jail conditions there. The committee will complete its work within a fortnight and will submit its report to the Belgaum Congress.

ASSAM MYSTERY

TEA GARDEN ASSISTANT DISAPPEARS

ON the morning of November 24, Mr. A. G. Thompson, an assistant on the Sycotta Tea Estate, Kharikatia, Assam, called at the manager's office, and after transacting certain business, left on his bicycle and has not been heard of since. A reward of Rs. 1,000 has been offered by the manager of the Sycotta Estate for information resulting in the discovery of the missing man.

Mr. Thompson, who is the son of Canon Thompson of Hayes Vicarage, Kent, saw considerable war service and was awarded the Military Cross. He is stated to have been suffering from shell-shock. A well-set-up man, five feet ten inches in height, Mr. Thompson when last seen, was wearing grey flannel trousers, with sports coat, black brogue shoes and a pig-sticker topi.

LEPER PROBLEM

INFORMATION TO BE ASKED IN ASSEMBLY

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT)

WHEN the problem of leprosy in India is beginning to be seriously handled it is welcome to find that some members of the Assembly are also taking an interest in it.

Dr. S. K. Datta, has tabled a question for the next session asking: "What has been done within recent years to promote research into the causes of dissemination, and care of leprosy; whether any inspectors of lepers as contemplated under the Act of 1898 and amended by Act of 1920 have been appointed in administrations under the direct control of the Government of India, and if so whether the reports of these inspectors show that the provisions of the original Act are adequate for its purpose; whether the Government has ever undertaken a census of lepers in India, and if not, whether any special steps were taken to ensure statistical accuracy of the figures that formed part of the general census of 1921.



China's nuclear force expands, Russia ties deepen

The USA is urging China to be more transparent about its nuclear programme

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON, 19 DECEMBER

China is expanding its nuclear force, has increased military pressure against Taiwan and has strengthened its ties with Russia over the past year, according to a Pentagon report Wednesday that details actions accelerating key areas of conflict with the United States.

The report, however, also notes that the recent rash of corruption allegations within China's powerful Central Military Commission, which oversees the People's Liberation Army, is hurting Beijing's military growth and could slow its campaign to modernize.

The impact, said a senior defense official, is a bit of a mixed bag because while there has been progress in

some programs, China has slid back in others.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to describe the U.S. assessment, warned that Beijing is working toward developing a more diverse and technologically sophisticated nuclear force. While the expected number of nuclear warheads has maintained consistent growth, China is broadening its targeting abilities.

Beijing is going to be able to go after more and different types of targets, do greater damage and have more options for multiple rounds of counterstrikes, the official said. The U.S. is urging China to be more transparent about its nuclear program, while also warning that America will defend its allies and take appropriate steps in response.

According to the report, which provides the annual



U.S. assessment of China's military power and is required by Congress, China had more than 600 operational nuclear warheads as of May, and the U.S. expects it will have more than 1,000 by 2030.

The Chinese Embassy, in response, said China has always "firmly adhered to a nuclear strategy of self-defense," follows the no-first-use nuclear policy and

maintains its nuclear capabilities at the minimum level required for national security.

Liu Pengyu, the embassy spokesman, said such annual reports by the Pentagon are "filled with 'Cold-War' thinking and zero-sum game mentality, which China firmly opposes."

The Biden administration has worked to maintain a

balance with China, building up the U.S. military presence in the Asia-Pacific region to be ready to counter Beijing while also encouraging increased communications between the two countries at the diplomatic and military levels.

That uptick in talks has coincided with a decrease in coercive and risky intercepts of U.S. aircraft since late 2023, compared with the previous two years. China still, however, does what the U.S. military considers "unsafe" flights near American and allied forces in the region.

The Pentagon's national defense strategy is built around China being the greatest security challenge for the U.S., and the threat from Beijing influences how the U.S. military is equipped and organized for the future.

Pakistan denounces US sanctions on its missile programme as biased, putting regional peace at risk

AGENCIES
ISLAMABAD, 19 DECEMBER

Pakistan on Thursday denounced new U.S. sanctions on the country's ballistic missile program as "discriminatory" that put the region's peace and security at risk.

Pakistan's Foreign Ministry warned in a statement that the sanctions "have dangerous implications for strategic stability of our region and beyond." It also cast doubt on U.S. allegations that targeted businesses were involved in weapons proliferation because previous sanctions "were based on mere doubts and suspicion without any evidence whatsoever."

It also accused the U.S. of "double standards" for waiving licensing requirements for advanced military technology to other countries.

The sanctions freeze any



U.S. property belonging to the targeted businesses and bar Americans from doing business with them.

The U.S. State Department said one such sanctioned entity, the Islamabad-based National Development Complex worked to acquire items for developing Pakistan's long range ballistic missile program that includes the SHAHEEN series of ballistic missiles.

The other sanctioned entities are Akhtar and Sons Private Limited, Affiliates International and Rockside Enterprise.

State Department spokesman Matthew Miller posted on X platform on Wednesday that the U.S. had been "been clear and consistent about our concerns" over such weapons proliferation and that it would "continue to engage constructively with Pakistan on these issues."

Analysts say Pakistan's nuclear and missile program is primarily aimed at countering threats from neighboring India.

Security expert Syed Muhammad Ali called the sanctions "short sighted, destabilizing and divorced for South Asian regional strategic realities."

Pakistan became a declared nuclear power in 1998, when it conducted underground nuclear tests in response to those carried out by its rival and neighbor India. The two sides regularly test-fired their short, medium and long-range missiles.

Two highway crashes in southeastern Afghanistan kill 50 people and injure 76



AGENCIES
WASHINGTON, 19 DECEMBER

Two highway crashes in southeastern Afghanistan have killed a combined total of 50 people and injured 76, a government spokesman said Thursday.

One was a collision

between a passenger bus and an oil tanker on the Kabul-Kandahar highway late Wednesday, said Hafiz Omar, a spokesman for the governor of Ghazni province.

The other was in a different area of the same highway, which connects the Afghan capital with the

south.

"The injured have been taken to hospitals in Ghazni and authorities are in the process of handing over the bodies to families," said Omar. Patients in a more serious condition were transferred to Kabul. Women and children are among the casualties, he added.

Crash survivor Abdullah Khan, who was being treated in a Ghazni hospital, said he didn't know how many people had either died or were injured.

"I got out from the bus myself and heard the sound of moaning. There was blood everywhere. Some people had head injuries and others had hurt their legs."

Traffic accidents are common in Afghanistan, mainly due to poor road conditions and driver carelessness.

Number of dead and missing still unclear as first aid arrives in quake-hit Pacific nation of Vanuatu

AGENCIES
WELLINGTON, 19 DECEMBER

Amid the havoc wrought by a violent earthquake two days earlier, Ivan Oswald and his staff prepared for lunchtime service Thursday at Nambawan Cafe, on an idyllic stretch of Vanuatu's waterfront.

The menu for the usual lunchtime rush was replaced with defrosted sausages for emergency workers sifting through rubble in search of those trapped alive or killed in flattened buildings when the massive, 7.3 jolt hit Port Vila, Vanuatu's capital 48 hours earlier. Search crews were joined Thursday by specialists arriving in waves from Australia, New Zealand and France.

Earthquakes are normal



for the South Pacific nation made up of 80 islands and home to 330,000 people, but Tuesday's terrifying shake was like nothing residents had felt before. Centered 30 kilometers (19 miles) offshore, at a depth of 57 kilometers (35 miles), the quake was followed by hundreds of rattling aftershocks. The death toll was still unclear and official information remained scarce. The government initially confirmed 14 deaths.

On Wednesday, it said nine had been verified by the hospital -- but officials expected the number would rise. More than 200 injured people were treated, officials said, but that figure has not been updated since around early Wednesday. On Thursday, telecommunications -- though piecemeal and patchy -- were more widely restored after a near total blackout following the quake. It offered residents of Vanuatu answers about the scale of the damage and about how many people were missing. As word got around that Nambawan had power and an independent internet

source, rescuers, tourists and locals visited to charge devices and attempt to locate their relatives.

"We've had a few tears," said Oswald, the cafe's owner. "I can't help with the rescue, but I can help with this."

The extent of the havoc became clearer on Thursday. The worst-hit area was Port Vila's downtown, busy with lunchtime shoppers on Tuesday. Some outlying islands and villages near the quake's epicenter have experienced landslides.

Infrastructure damage was extensive, including to hospitals, roads, buildings,

two major water reservoirs and gas pipes, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said late on Wednesday. Response efforts were hampered by access problems.

A massive landslide has blocked the sea port, limiting the transport of essential supplies and personnel, the UN agency said. The airport was open only for humanitarian use on Thursday, but the runway has been deemed operational and the resumption of commercial flights will be considered on Friday.

South Korea's acting leader vetoes Bills sponsored by oppn, deepening political strife

AGENCIES
SEOUL, 19 DECEMBER

South Korea's acting leader on Thursday vetoed a spate of contentious bills sponsored by the main opposition party, deepening political strife in the wake of parliament's impeachment of President Yoon Suk Yeol (photo).

The ruling and opposition parties have been bickering over how much authority Prime Minister Han Duck-soo, the country's No. 2 official, has assumed since the opposition-controlled National Assembly last Saturday voted to suspend Yoon's presidential powers over his short-lived Dec. 3 martial law. The Constitutional Court is to determine



whether to formally dismiss the conservative Yoon as president or reinstate him.

Law enforcement authorities are also separately investigating whether Yoon's martial law enforcement amounted to rebellion. Yoon's defense minister, police chief and several other military commanders have already been arrested over the case. The main liberal

opposition Democratic Party earlier considered impeaching Han as well for failing to stop Yoon's martial law declaration, but shelved the idea after he became acting leader.

Four of the six bills vetoed by Han were meant to introduce greater state financial assistance programs for the country's agriculture and fisheries industries.

The most contentious bill is the Grain Management Act, which would require the government to buy surplus rice if the price drops too sharply to protect the country's farming industry and promote its food sovereignty. Han said the bill would cause "immense" financial burdens on the government and eventually lead to

further drops in rice prices.

Another controversial bill is the National Assembly Testimony Appraisal Act, which would give lawmakers more power to request people to attend parliament hearings and submit documents. Under the proposed legislation, individuals could no longer decline such requests by citing the protection of trade secrets or personal information.

The Democratic Party said the bill is necessary to determine the full details of Yoon's martial law decree. But Han said the bill would likely infringe upon people's privacy and that there are concerns among business leaders that key technology and company secrets could be leaked.

France's Macron visits cyclone-wrecked Mayotte as residents urge for water, food and other aid: French President Emmanuel Macron on Thursday surveyed the devastation that a cyclone wrought across the Indian Ocean archipelago of Mayotte as thousands of people tried to cope without the bare essentials and amid fears of a surging death toll.

AGENCIES

INFORMATION WANTED This is the photograph of Pallabi Das , Father's Name- Pabitra Das of Purussattampur, PS-Ganga Sagar Coastal, Dist.- South 24 Parganas, State- West Bengal, who has been missing since 07.11.2024 at about 23:00 hrs. from her Residential area, Description of this missing person is : Age-17 years, Complexion-Fair, Height-5 Feet 2 Inch, Wearing-Black Saree, Language-Bengali . Please Contact Officer in Charge, Missing Persons Bureau, C.I.D., West Bengal, Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120. ICA-D2189 (3)/2024	INFORMATION WANTED This is the photograph of Shibani Das , Father's/Husband's Name- Iswar Das of Vill-Natun Rasta near Kathmi, PO+PS-Ghola, Dist.- North 24 Parganas, who has been missing since 07.11.2024 at about 08:30 hrs. from Residence under Frezerganj Coastal PS, Description of this missing person is : Age-15 years, Complexion-Shyamabarna, Height-5 Feet, Language-Bengali . Please Contact Officer in Charge, Missing Persons Bureau, C.I.D., West Bengal, Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120. ICA-D2190 (3)/2024	INFORMATION WANTED This is the photograph of Sumon Roy , Father's/Husband's Name- Kamal Roy of Vill-Natun Rasta near Kathmi, PO+PS-Ghola, Dist.- North 24 Parganas, who has been missing since 17.12.2024 at about 10:00 hrs. from Residence under Ghola PS, Description of this missing person is : Age-29 years, Complexion-Shyama, Height-5 Feet, Wearing-Blue Pant and Red Shirt, Language-Bengali . Please Contact Officer in Charge, Missing Persons Bureau, C.I.D., West Bengal, Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120. ICA-D2191 (3)/2024
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INFORMATION WANTED This is the photograph of Tapan Chakraborty , Father's/Husband's Name- Lt. Jagadish Chandra Chakraborty of Vill-Jamider Para, PO-Natagarh, PS-Ghola, Dist.- North 24 Parganas, who has been missing since 01.06.2024 at about 09:00 hrs. from Residence under Ghola PS, Description of this missing person is : Age-70 years (approx), Complexion-Shyama Height-5 Feet 6 Inch, Wearing-Lungi and White Shirt . Please Contact Officer in Charge, Missing Persons Bureau, C.I.D., West Bengal, Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120. ICA-D2192 (3)/2024	INFORMATION WANTED This is the photograph of Kamal Das , Father's/Husband's Name- Lt. Khirod Das of Prasanna Chatterjee Road, PO-Ghola, PS-Ghola, Dist.- North 24 Parganas, who has been missing since 18.01.2024 at about 12:00 hrs. from Residence under Ghola PS, Description of this missing person is : Age-60 years, Complexion-Shyama, Height-5 Feet 5 Inch, Wearing-Khayeri Sweater, Language-Bengali . Please Contact Officer in Charge, Missing Persons Bureau, C.I.D., West Bengal, Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120. ICA-D2193 (3)/2024	INFORMATION WANTED This is the photograph of Subhankar Singha , Father's/Husband's Name- Dipankar Singha of Vill-Shibala Para, PO-Balughat, PS-Balughat, Dist.-Dakshin Dinajpur, who has been missing since 15.11.2024 at about 11:30 hrs. from Residence under Balughat PS, Description of this missing person is : Age-26 years, Complexion-Black, Height-5 Feet 6 Inch, Wearing-Blue Shirt and Pant, Language-Bengali . Please Contact Officer in Charge, Missing Persons Bureau, C.I.D., West Bengal, Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120. ICA-D2194 (3)/2024	INFORMATION WANTED This is the photograph of Mehendi Khanam , Father's/Husband's Name- Sk Ejazul of Vill-Mahishagot, PS-Belda, Dist.-Paschim Medinipur, who has been missing since 22.09.2024 at about 18:00 hrs. from Residence under Belda PS, Description of this missing person is : Age-17 years, Complexion-Fair, Height-5 Feet 2 Inch, Wearing-Maroon Colour Salwar Kameez, Language-Bengali and Hindi . Please Contact Officer in Charge, Missing Persons Bureau, C.I.D., West Bengal, Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120. ICA-D2195 (3)/2024
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Democracies across the globe are at a crossroads, as authoritarians seek to chip away at freedoms

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON, 19 DECEMBER

In November, the world's most powerful democracy elected as its next president a man who schemed to overturn its last presidential election. A month later, South Koreans swarmed their legislature to block their president's attempt to impose martial law.

The contrast sums up a year that tested democracy on all sides.

Incumbent parties and leaders were battered in elections that covered 60% of the world's population, a sign of widespread discontent in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic. It also was a sign of democracy working well, as it continued its core function of giving citizens the opportunity to replace the people who govern them.

That made 2024 a year in which the state of democracy



is both a glass half full and half empty.

From Asia to Africa to the Americas, it produced examples of democracy working and citizens standing up against attempted coups or authoritarians. At the same time, some of the new regimes ushered in are taking a distinctly authoritarian tack. And the year ends with fresh turmoil in three prominent democracies, Canada, France and Germany.

Donald Trump ended his last term trying to overturn his loss to President Joe Biden and rallying an angry crowd of supporters, some of whom then stormed the U.S. Capitol

in a violent attempt to block Congress from certifying Biden's victory. It was a shocking end to the U.S.'s long tradition of peacefully transferring power from one president to the next.

Nonetheless, voters in November agreed to give Trump another term in the White House, even as he increasingly embraced authoritarian leaders and promised to seek retribution against those who defended democracy in 2020.

Voters didn't heed warnings about Trump's threat to democracy and were driven more by frustration at inflation and a surge in migration during Biden's term.

That, of course, is democracy in action: Voters can choose to throw out an incumbent party even if the establishment warns that it's dangerous. Indeed, the glass half full position on Trump is that his win was

entirely democratic.

Trump's 2016 victory was due to a quirk in the country's 18th century Constitution that awards the presidency not based on a majority of the popular vote, but to whoever wins a majority of state-based Electoral College votes.

But in 2024, Trump won both the popular and Electoral College votes. He also expanded his margins among Latino and Black voters. He won with high turnout, debunking a long-held myth that U.S. conservatives struggle when many people vote. That belief has driven Republican attempts to make it tougher to cast a ballot.

The quiet period after the election is to some extent an illusion. Had Trump lost, he and his allies were poised to contest a victory by his Democratic opponent, so it's not as if anti-democratic tendencies were erased by his win.

INFORMATION WANTED This is the photograph of Male Dead Body , found on 21.11.2024 under Bandel GRPS area, Description of this Deadbody is: Age-65 Years, Sex: Male, Complexion-Shyama, Height-5 Feet 6 Inch, Build-Medium, Hair-White, Wearing-White Panjabi, Black Inner and Narche Track Suit . Please Contact Officer in Charge, Missing Persons Bureau, C.I.D., West Bengal, Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120. ICA-D2196 (3)/2024	INFORMATION WANTED This is the photograph of Male Dead Body , found on 12.11.2024 under Bandel GRPS area, Description of this Deadbody is: Age-40 Years, Sex: Male, Complexion-Shyama, Height-5 Feet 6 Inch, Build-Medium, Hair-Black & White, Wearing-Light Blue Jeans Pant & Black Jangia . Please Contact Officer in Charge, Missing Persons Bureau, C.I.D., West Bengal, Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120. ICA-D2197 (3)/2024	INFORMATION WANTED This is the photograph of Male Dead Body , found on 06.11.2024 under Bandel GRPS area, Description of this Deadbody is: Age-50 Years, Sex: Male, Complexion-Shyama, Height-5 Feet 6 Inch, Build-Medium, Hair-Black & White, Wearing-Black Jacket, Black T-Shirt & Orange Track Suit . Please Contact Officer in Charge, Missing Persons Bureau, C.I.D., West Bengal, Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120. ICA-D2198 (3)/2024	INFORMATION WANTED This is the photograph of Unknown Male Dead Body , found on 06.11.2024 under Kamarkunda GRPS area, Description of this Deadbody is: Age-50 Years, Sex: Male, Complexion-Shyama, Height-5 Feet 6 Inch, Build-Medium, Hair-Black & White, Wearing-Green & White Shirt, Blue & White Dorakata Genji, Brown Jangia & Ash colour Full Pant . Please Contact Officer in Charge, Missing Persons Bureau, C.I.D., West Bengal, Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120. ICA-D2199 (3)/2024
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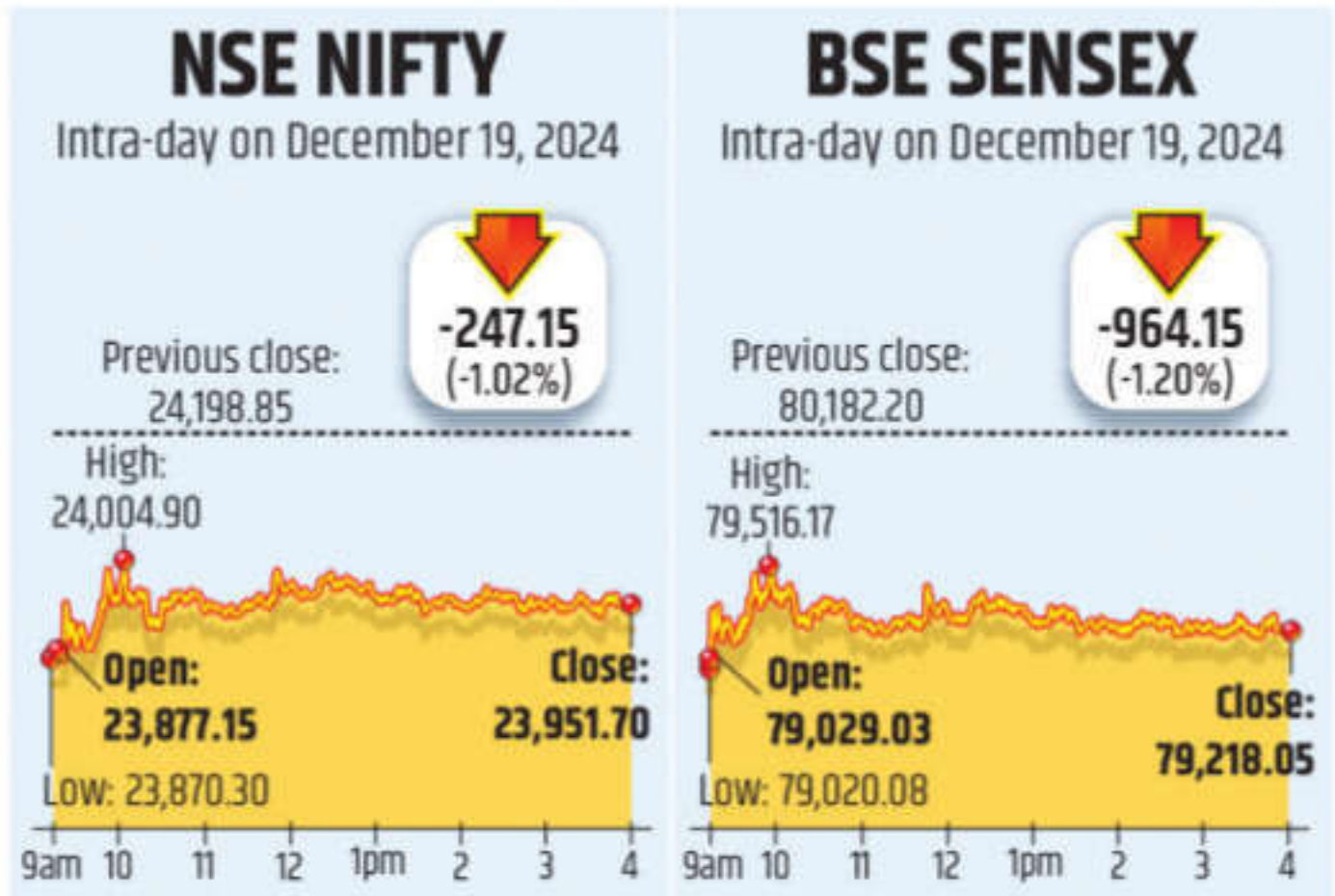
THUMBNAILS

Rupee falls to all-time low against US dollar: The Indian Rupee fell to an all-time low against the US dollar on Thursday, breaching the Rs 85 mark for the first time. This decline comes after the US Federal Reserve cut key interest rates by 25 bps and signalled fewer rate cuts in 2025. Notably, the rupee dropped to 85.0650 against the US dollar in early trade, compared to 84.9525 on Wednesday. The pace of the rupee's depreciation has accelerated recently, with the fall from Rs 84 to Rs 85 taking just two months.

Huge job and business opportunities in Railway Manufacturing Industry: The railway manufacturing sector holds significant promise for job creation and business opportunities for MSMEs in eastern India. West Bengal, being the hub of railway manufacturing, currently requires a substantial number of skilled workers for both direct and indirect roles within this industry. It is essential for numerous MSMEs to engage actively in the railway manufacturing landscape, said Mr Prithish Chowdhary, Co-Chairman, CII ER Manufacturing Subcommittee & Deputy Managing Director, Titagarh Rail System, at the Rail Connect East 2024, organised by CII Eastern Region, in Kolkata, today.

Sensex tumbles over 1 pc

Sensex crashed almost 1,200 points and Nifty nosedived back to 23,870



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 19 DECEMBER

Benchmark indices tumbled over 1% on Thursday marking their fourth consecutive session of decline. The decline comes amid global market weakness weighing heavily on investor sentiment. Sensex crashed almost 1,200 points and Nifty nosedived back to 23,870 level in intraday trade after the US Fed signalled the pace of rate cuts could be slower going ahead.

At the close, the Sensex

dropped 1.2%, shedding 964 points to settle at 79,218, while the Nifty fell 1.02%, losing 247.6 points to end at 23,951.25.

Sensex opened at 79,029.03 against its previous close of 80,182.20 while Nifty 50 opened at 23,877.15 against its previous close of 24,198.85.

In the broader market, the BSE MidCap and Small-Cap indices saw modest declines. BSE Midcap index declined 0.30%, while the BSE Smallcap index dropped 0.28%.

The overall market capitalisation of the BSE-listed

firms dropped to nearly Rs 450 lakh crore from nearly Rs 453 lakh crore in the previous session.

Among the sectors, most of them suffered significant losses. Nifty Bank, Financial Services, IT and Consumer Durables fell by a per cent while on the other hand, bucking the trend, the Nifty Pharma index jumped almost 2%.

The Indian rupee hit a historic low of 85.3 per dollar, damaging market sentiment.

On Nifty, Bajaj Finance, Bajaj Finserv, Asian Paints, JSW Steel, and Grasim were

the top laggards, ending lower by up to 2.33 per cent.

On the other hand, Dr Reddy's, Cipla, BPCL, Sun Pharma, and Apollo Hospital were among the 14 constituent stocks that ended higher by up to 4.04%.

Among the individual performers, SpiceJet share price jumped nearly 9% after the company reported that it reached an amicable settlement with Genesis, a commercial airline leasing company.

One Mobikwik Systems shares extended its listing gains, and had a bumper debut on both bourses, listing at Rs 442.25, at a 58.5% premium against the offer price of Rs 279.

Dr Reddy's Laboratories shares gained over 4% after brokerage firm Nomura upgraded its rating to 'buy' from the previous 'neutral' call.

Indusind Bank settled in red, and hit its 52-week low. Shares of Asian Paints settled 2% lower and hit the 52-week low after two senior management executives announced their resignations.

Nestle India shares also settled 1% lower, hitting a fresh 52-week low intraday.

After weak Q1 and Q2 earnings of Indian corporates, all eyes are on the December quarter (Q3) earnings.

India tops list of recipient countries for remittances with \$129bn inflow in 2024



AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, 19 DECEMBER

India tops the list of recipient countries for remittances in 2024 with an estimated inflow of \$129 billion, followed by Mexico (\$68 billion), China (\$48 billion), the Philippines (\$40 billion), and Pakistan (\$33 billion), according to the latest figures compiled by World Bank economists.

The growth rate of remittances this year is estimated to be 5.8 per cent, compared to 1.2 per cent registered in 2023, according to a World Bank blog post

"The recovery of the job markets in the high-income countries of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD),

following the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, has been the key driver of remittances. This is especially true for the United States where the employment of foreign-born workers has recovered steadily and is 11 percent higher than the pre-pandemic level seen in February 2020," the report said.

Officially recorded remittances to low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) are expected to reach \$685 billion in 2024, it further stated.

The blog post said remittances have continued to outpace other types of external financial flows to low- and middle-income countries and will continue to increase because of enormous migration pressures driven by demographic trends, income gaps, and climate change.

It is notable that remittances have continued to outpace other types of external financial flows to low- and middle-income countries. Remittances have even surpassed FDI significantly. The gap between remittances and FDI is expected to widen further in 2024, the report pointed out.

During the past decade, remittances increased by 57 percent, while FDI declined by 41 percent. Remittances will likely continue to increase because of enormous migration pressures driven by demographic trends, income gaps, and climate change, the World Bank report explained. "Countries need to take note of the size and resilience of remittances and find ways to leverage these flows for poverty reduction, financing health and education, financial inclusion of households, and improving access to capital markets for state and non-state enterprises," the blog said.

Remittance flows to South Asia are expected to register the highest increase in 2024, at 11.8 per cent, driven by continued strong flows to India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh, the blog post by economists Dilip Ratha, Sonia Plazaeng and financial analyst Ju Kim said.

India's milk market stable with low inflation rates in November: Govt

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, 19 DECEMBER

The overall milk situation in the country is stable with the year-on-year Wholesale Price Index and (WPI) and Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation rates for milk recorded at low levels of 2.09 and 2.85, respectively, for the month of November 2024, Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD) Secretary Alka Upadhyaya, said at a review meeting here, an official statement said on Thursday.

"There is an adequate commodity stock of skimmed milk powder, whole milk powder, white butter, and ghee. At the same time, there has been an improvement in milk procurement and milk procurement prices over the year," she pointed out.

The Secretary also highlighted that India holds the

top position globally in milk production, generating approximately 239.3 million metric tons in the year 2023-24, according to an official statement. She advised all Milk Federations to take up active participation in the Midday Meal and Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) programs of the Ministry of Women & Child Development (MoWCD) and the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MoHRD), as these represent the largest institutional domestic market for the dairy sector. The meeting was attended by representatives from the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), and the National Cooperative Dairy Federation of India (NCDFI) along with officials of the DAHD and State Cooperative Dairy Federations and Milk Unions across the country. The milk situation in the country and the progress being

made by the State Milk Federations were discussed in detail during the review, Upadhyaya emphasised that Dairy Federations should focus on enhancing milk procurement and increasing the price paid to the farmers, while also considering consumer interests. During the meeting, the initiatives undertaken by the State Milk Federations such as Amul (Gujarat), Nandini (Karnataka), Saras (Rajasthan), and Megha (Jharkhand) were commended, and it was recommended that other Federations should undertake similar efforts. DAHD is also consistently collaborating with the MoWCD and the MoHRD to promote the inclusion of milk in the Midday Meal and ICDS programmes. It was observed that commensurate with the production, consumption of processed dairy has increased by 20 per cent.

RBI flags rising subsidies by states as incipient stress

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, 19 DECEMBER

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Thursday termed increasing spending by states on subsidies as an "incipient stress" and called for rationalisation of such outgoes.

The central bank in a report 'State Finances: A Study of Budgets of 2024-25' said that the states need to contain and rationalise their subsidy outgoes so that such spending does not crowd out more productive expenditure.

Subsidies provided by the states include farm loan waivers, free/subsidised services (like electricity to agriculture and households), transport, gas cylinders) and cash transfers to farmers, youth and women.

Subsidies, sometimes termed freebies in political discourse, are being resorted to by political parties, specially ahead of polls.



Several states have announced sops pertaining to farm loan waivers, free electricity to agriculture and households, free transport to a section of people, allowances to unemployed youth and monetary assistance to women.

"Such spending could crowd out the resources available to them and hamper

their capacity to build critical social and economic infrastructure. High debt-GDP ratio, outstanding guarantees and the increasing subsidy burden require states to persevere with fiscal consolidation while laying greater emphasis on developmental and capital spending," the RBI report read.

RBI argued that an urgent

review of the outgoes on subsidies is warranted to free up resources for increased investment in health, education, agriculture, research and development (R&D) and rural infrastructure, which will help create more jobs and reduce poverty on a sustainable basis.

Asserting that new pressures are emerging from an increasing subsidy burden, RBI said these developments underline the need for deepening fiscal consolidation by the states.

On a macro level, RBI said state governments have made commendable progress towards fiscal consolidation by containing their aggregate gross fiscal deficit within 3 per cent of GDP for three consecutive years (2021-22 to 2023-24) and restricting revenue deficit to 0.2 per cent of GDP in 2022-23 and 2023-24.

This, RBI said, has allowed the states to scale up their

capital spending and improve the quality of expenditure.

The adoption of fiscal responsibility legislations (FRLs) by state governments in the early 2000s improved their key fiscal parameters.

Concomitantly, the overall debt of the states declined from 31.8 per cent of GDP at end-March 2004 to 28.5 per cent of GDP at end-March 2024; however, it remains well above the level of 20 per cent recommended by the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Review Committee (2017).

The RBI report suggested data analytics, the adoption of machine learning and artificial intelligence can help states further refine their taxation systems and augment tax capacity.

It added that states can also increase non-tax revenue by timely revisions of user charges, particularly for power, water and transport services.

Indian medical devices sector estimated to grow to \$30 billion by 2030: Anupriya Patel

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, 19 DECEMBER

The Indian medical devices, a sunrise sector in the country with growth potential, is estimated to grow to \$30 billion by 2030, Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Anupriya Patel said on Thursday.

Addressing the plenary session at the 21st Health Summit of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Patel noted that India is the fourth largest medical devices market in Asia after Japan, China, and South Korea. The country is also among the top 20 global medical device markets in the world.



"The medical device sector in India is recognised as a sunrise sector because of its immense growth potential

driven by the country's increasing healthcare needs, technological innovations, government support, and

emerging market opportunities," Patel said.

"The size of the Indian medical devices sector is estimated to be around \$14 billion and it is expected to grow to \$30 billion by 2030," she noted. The MoS added that the MedTech industry acts as the catalyst linking patients, payors, providers, and regulators to create a stronger and more equitable healthcare system. It also "holds the promise of revolutionising healthcare delivery and outcomes, both in India and globally".

She also informed about the launch of the Scheme for Promotion of Medical Devices Parks with a Rs 400

crore outlay, providing Rs 100 crore each to Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, and Himachal Pradesh for infrastructure development.

Patel also highlighted the promise of AI innovation in healthcare to "create new methods for facilitating and tackling healthcare challenges and discovering new opportunities".

Meanwhile, Patel also stated the government's efforts in strengthening the medical device ecosystem, boosting domestic manufacturing, promoting research, enhancing skill development, and increasing India's share in the global market.

Coal imports during Apr-Oct decrease by 3.1 pc



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 19 DECEMBER

Coal imports in India, during the April-October period of FY 2024-25, witnessed a notable decrease of 3.1%, reaching 149.39 million tonnes (MT), the Ministry of Coal said on Thursday.

During the same period last year, coal production was recorded at 154.17 MT.

Additionally, Non-Regulated Sector (other than power) witnessed a more

significant drop of 8.8%, during Apr-Oct '24 as compared to the same period of last year.

As per the data released by the ministry, there was a significant growth of 3.87% in coal-based power generation from April to October 2024 compared to the same period last year. Further, the imports for blending purposes by thermal power plants decreased substantially by 19.5% during the same period.

Increase in coal import for power sector is attributed to the import of coal by imported coal-based power plants (designed to utilise imported coal only) i.e. 30.04 MT during this period, up from 21.71 MT, reaching a growth of 38.4% in the corresponding timeframe last year.

In terms of production of coal, during the April-October 2024 period, there was a commendable increase with the production reaching 537.57 MT compared to 506.93 MT in the same period of FY 2023-24, marking a growth of 6.04%.

This upward trend reflects the government's ongoing efforts to streamline coal usage and enhance domestic production, the Coal Ministry said.

Road projects under HAM on a steady drive across India

RITWIK MUKHERJEE
KOLKATA, 19 DECEMBER

Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM) seems to be the order of the day, when it comes to road projects in the country. Facts and figures also back up this proposition. Over the past five fiscals, excluding 2024, about a quarter of the projects awarded by MoRTH (MoRTH awarding includes projects awarded by the National Highways Authority of India) were under HAM, underlining the model's significance in the sector. Its success can be attributed to provisions such

as requirement of at least 80 per cent right-of-way (ROW) availability before the declaration of appointed date, de-scoping and de-linking of project length where ROW has not been received, and inflation and interest-rate hedging given indexation of cash flows. These features have collectively contributed to healthy project execution.

That's not all. Road projects under the hybrid annuity model (HAM) are on a steady drive, with more than 90 per cent of the project length under development being

constructed on schedule or facing marginal delays. A large proportion of such delayed projects are eligible for extensions, too. This outcome is despite increased bidding intensity impacting the profitability of project sponsors. Such timely execution and comfortable debt protection metrics will support the credit risk profiles of these projects. That's what CRISIL Ratings feel. A CRISIL Ratings analysis of a rated pool of nearly 1,400 kilometre 1 (km) of under-construction HAM projects, awarded by the Union Ministry of Road Trans-



port and Highways (MoRTH), indicates as much.

Studies indicate that nearly 66 per cent of under-construction project length is expected to be on or before schedule. Another 26 per cent is either delayed marginally or awaiting approval for timeline extension. These exten-

sions are to account for delays that are not attributable to concessionaires, such as non-availability of ROW, or events such as heavy rains, ban on mining, etc. This leaves only 8 per cent of project length under construction facing material execution-related challenges, said Anand Kulka-

mi, Director, CRISIL Ratings Ltd.

These execution delays can mostly be attributed to lack of necessary approvals in a few specific projects and liquidity constraints faced by some sponsors, which hindered their ability to infuse equity in a timely manner.

Interestingly however, the ministry's framework to replace sponsors of projects facing challenges — in consultation with lenders and willing concessionaires — has helped bring execution of some of the delayed projects back on track. Further, timely

termination of some projects facing challenges and re-awarding them has also supported project implementation.

One also has to keep in mind that once completed, the HAM projects typically witness strong credit profiles due to inherent structural benefits such as timely receipt of steady cash flows from a central counterparty, as pointed out by Saina Kathawala, Associate Director, CRISIL Ratings Ltd.

Quite significantly, while credit risk profiles have remained stable so far, with

the increasing popularity of HAM and the relaxation in bidding norms (Changes such as relaxation in the financial eligibility criteria to a minimum net worth of 15 per cent of estimated project cost from 25 per cent earlier and reduction in the order size were made to the bidding criteria), the number of bidders has more than doubled over the last four fiscals. The impact of competitively bid projects on profitability of sponsors and their ability to timely infuse funds or absorb cost escalations will be interesting to watch out for.



Yogi hails Vajpayee as an icon of good governance

UP CM Yogi made the remarks while inaugurating the Good Governance Week at the Sangeet Natak Academy

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, 19 DECEMBER

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath described Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee on Thursday as an icon of good governance and lauded his role in transforming political instability into stability and fulfilling the goals of effective governance.

He commended Atalji's visionary initiatives like the Antyodaya scheme, which aimed to empower the poor, deprived, and marginalised sections of society besides ensuring the rights of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and backward classes.

He also highlighted transformative projects like the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana and the Golden Quadrilateral, which ushered in a new era of world-class infrastructure and highways in India.

CM Yogi made the remarks while inaugurating the Good Governance Week at the Sangeet Natak Academy and unveiling an exhibition celebrating the life and contributions of late Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

The week-long event marking the 100th birth anniversary of the former Prime Minister will be celebrated till 25 December.

In his address, CM Yogi



stated that this year marks the birth centenary of Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the former Prime Minister and a great son of Mother India. With the inspiration of PM Narendra Modi, Good Governance Week is being started in the entire country and the state, he added.

CM Yogi noted that Atalji's ancestral roots are in Uttar

Pradesh, which he chose as his Karmabhoomi, representing the state in Parliament multiple times from Balrampur and Lucknow.

"He also provided exemplary leadership to the nation as both Foreign Minister and Prime Minister. Known as the 'Ajatashatru' of Indian politics, Atalji was also a poet, journalist, litterateur, and

politician, whose six decades of public life remained untainted," he remarked. CM Yogi further informed that as part of the Good Governance Week, several programmes began in every district on Thursday, which will continue until 25 December. These programmes include essay writing competitions on good governance for school

children, speeches at the higher education level, painting competitions, and seminars in rural areas.

Events will also be organised throughout the year to celebrate Atalji's legacy. The winners of these activities will be honoured on 25 December. Special poetry sessions based on Atalji's poems will be organised in every district, school, and college on 25 December evening to provide a platform for budding poets to showcase their talent.

The Chief Minister emphasised that Atalji's services and contributions serve as a great inspiration for the people of the country. On the occasion of the launch of Good Governance Week, various programmes related to this theme will be held in schools, colleges, and institutions across the state.

Yogi highlighted that "the ideals of the revered Atalji will continue to guide people." The good governance that Atalji envisioned is being effectively implemented under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he added, reiterating the state government's commitment to achieving it. Higher Education Minister Yogendra Upadhyay, Culture and Tourism Minister Jaiveer Singh, and other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

Security forces intensify crackdown on militancy in Manipur

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
IMPHAL, 19 DECEMBER

In a series of coordinated operations, security forces dismantled camps and apprehended members of the banned militant groups in Manipur's Imphal East and surrounding districts, police reported on Thursday.

A significant breakthrough came on Wednesday when a hideout of the proscribed Kanglei Yawol Kanna Lup (KYKL) was uncovered at Makou Pourabi during a search operation.

Recovered items included an air gun, a mobile handset, and a bulletproof helmet. In a parallel operation in the same area, security forces destroyed a training camp belonging to the banned Peo-



ple's Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak (PREPAK). The raid yielded an INSAS LMG magazine, a bayonet, five wooden dummy guns, two walkie-talkie sets, and cartridges.

Further escalating their efforts, police apprehended nine members of the outlawed Kangleipak Communist Party (People's War Group) (KCP-PWG) in the past two days for their involvement in extortion activities.

On Wednesday, two members were arrested at Mantripukhri Bazar in Imphal East, with demand letters and cash receipt notes linked to the group recovered from their possession.

A day earlier, another cadre involved in extortion activities was apprehended at Tangkhul Avenue in Imphal West district.

The seizures and arrests have been hailed as significant blows to the operational capabilities of these banned outfits.

Mazagon Dock begins construction of advanced patrol vessels for Indian Coast Guard

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 19 DECEMBER

The Plate Cutting Ceremony for the first of 14 Fast Patrol Vessels (FPVs) and the first of six Next-Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels (NGOPVs), being built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd. (MDL) for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG), was held in Mumbai, today.

Notably, MDL secured a Rs 2,684 crore contract under the 'Buy (Indian-IDDMM)' initiative to construct these cutting-edge vessels.

Notably, MDL secured a Rs 2,684 crore contract under the 'Buy (Indian-IDDMM)' initiative to construct these cutting-edge vessels.

Equipped with advanced technologies such as surveillance drones, artificial intelligence for decision-making, an Integrated Bridge System for enhanced maneuverability, and an Integrated Machinery Control System for operational efficiency, these vessels represent a leap forward in mar-

itime capability. Designed, developed, and constructed indigenously, they are a testament to the Government's 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' vision, boosting India's defence production capacity.

Upon commissioning, these vessels will significantly strengthen the ICG's ability to ensure coastal security, safeguard India's maritime borders, perform search and rescue missions, address emergent security threats, and enforce maritime law across the nation's extensive maritime domain.

Online trading scam accused granted bail in CBI case

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
GUWAHATI, 19 DECEMBER

In a significant development in the multi-crore trading scam investigation, the Gauhati High Court has granted bail to the accused in the case due to the Central Bureau of Investigation's (CBI) failure to file a charge sheet within the stipulated time. Despite this legal relief,

the accused, Sumi Bora, remains incarcerated at Guwahati Central Jail as she faces charges in two additional cases registered by Assam Police in Duliajan and Borboruah police stations. Sumi Bora and her husband, Tarkik Bora, were apprehended on 12 September after surrendering to authorities following over a week on the run.

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala - 147001)
Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcd.in
Mobile No. 96461-55525

Open Press Tender Eng. No.: 585/P-1/EMPW-12893 dated 17.12.24

Dy.Chief Engineer/ Headquarter (Procurement Cell-1) GGSSTP, Roopnagar invites Open Press Tender for Renovation of staff/officers complex (shed) in CHP at GGSSTP, Ropar. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to www.pspcd.in from 19.12.24/02.00 PM onwards.

Note: - Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at www.pspcd.in

RTP-134/24

EASTERN RAILWAY
NOTICE INVITING E-AUCTION

No. COM/DEV/E-Auction/PUI/HWH/2022 Dated : 17.12.2024
E-Auction is invited by Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Eastern Railway, Howrah, 4th Floor, Rail Yatri Niwas Building, near Howrah station, Howrah-711101 for awarding fresh contract for Operation and Maintenance of Normal Pay & Use Toilet at **Mankundu Station** for 03 years over Howrah Division. The subject E-Auction is governed as per Railway Board's Freight Marketing Circular No. 11 of 2022 and Commercial Circular No. 14 of 2022. For more details and participation in E-Auction kindly visit the website www.irops.gov.in through E-Auction Leasing Module. **AUCTION CATALOGUE NO. : PnU-HWH-24-2-R. Lot No./Category : PnU-HWH-MUJ-Toi-26-24-1. Station : Mankundu (MUJ). Auction date and time : 31.12.2024 at 12.00 hrs. HWH-493/2024-25**
Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.irops.gov.in

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NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-Tendering Notice No. 2024-Dec-02 Dated: 16.12.2024

E-TENDERING NOTICE

Divisional Railway Manager (Engineering), N. C. Rly Agra for and on behalf of the President of India invites "Open Tender" through on Line only (E-Tendering) for the following works. The details of the tender are as under:

SN: 1 Tender No.: 2024-Dec-02-01 Approx Cost Rs.: 78963152.94
Description of work: Provision of "W-Beam" metal crash barrier along the track to prevent CRO in Agra-Dholpur section under ADEN/DHO subdivision (22 Running km)

SN: 2 Tender No.: 2024-Dec-02-02 Approx Cost Rs.: 10956753.63
Description of work: Maintenance of 4th line between CHJ-BTSR section under SSE/PW/MTJ(N) in the jurisdiction of ADEN-I-MTJ

SN: 3 Tender No.: 2024-Dec-02-03 Approx Cost Rs.: 41270677.78
Description of work: (A) MTJ-PWL : TSR (P) By Rly's PQRS between MTJ-AJH section UP 19.775 Kms (B) AGC-MTJ : TSR (P) By Rly's PQRS 15.77 Kms between AGC-MTJ UP section.

SN: 4 Tender No.: 2024-Dec-02-04 Approx Cost Rs.: 47232152.93
Description of work: MTJ-PWL Section : TSR(P) of 30.8 kms by Contractor's PQRS Portal under ADEN/MTJ-J Sub Division.

SN: 5 Tender No.: 2024-Dec-02-05 Approx Cost Rs.: 60145893.57
Description of work: (A) IDH-BXN - TRR(P) 9.186 Kms under ADEN-Line/IDH. (B) Complete track renewal (P) of 18.57 Kms with Contractors PQRS portal in IDH-BXN Section under ADEN-Line/IDH section. (C) AGC-DHO Through sleeper renewal (P) of 19.205 Kms with Contractors PQRS portal in AGC-DHO Section under ADEN-DHO section

For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website www.irops.gov.in. Tenders can only be submitted through web portal www.irops.gov.in up to 15:00 hrs on 06.01.2025 2146/24 (ADM)

North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in [@CPRONCR](https://www.facebook.com/CPRONCR)

T E N D E R

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE

Divisional Railway Manager (Works) N.C. Railway, Jhansi for and behalf of President of India invites sealed "Open Tender" through on Line (E-Tendering) for the following work:

E-Tender No.: JHS-ENGG-E-2024-224

Description of work : Supply, installation and commissioning of electronic type track-based rail lubricator (carry down effect of 1 Km) under sub-division of ADEN/BNDA.

Approx Cost : 41113292.60	Earnest Money : 355600.00
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Date of closing Tender : 13/01/2025 at 15:00 hrs.

Date of completion/period from issue acceptance letter : 60 Months.

• Tender online can be submitted up to 15:00 hrs on 13.01.2025.
• For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website www.irops.gov.in 2139/24 (AS)

North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in [@CPRONCR](https://www.facebook.com/CPRONCR)

EASTERN RAILWAY
e-Auction for Leasing of Parcel Space over Howrah Division

No. : COM/PARCEL/LEASING/Long term e-AUC/HWH/2024/PHIL Dt. 18.12.2024
Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Eastern Railway, Howrah, 4th Floor, Rail Yatri Niwas Building, near Howrah station, Howrah-711101 invites e-Auction through e-Auction module of IREPS website for 02 Nos. of SLRs in 02 passenger carrying trains originating from Howrah Division for two years. Non-transferable Auction catalogue containing detailed terms and conditions are available at www.irops.gov.in. The bidding for the instant e-Auction is to be submitted through e-Auction module on www.irops.gov.in. For participation in e-Auction process, one time Registration of merchants through e-Auction module in website www.irops.gov.in is mandatory. Merchants are also required to take digital signature of Class-III. **Auction Catalogue Details :** (1) **Auction Catalogue No. :** PCL-HWH-124-12F. **Train :** 02 Nos. of SLRs in 02 passenger carrying trains. **Auction start date & time :** 31.12.2024, 13.00 hrs. HWH-494/2024-25
Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.irops.gov.in

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EASTERN RAILWAY
E-AUCTION NOTICE

Admin Unit/Zone: Sealdah Division-Commercial, DRM Building, Kaiser Street, Sealdah, Kolkata-700 014. **Auction Catalogue No.:** SDAH-PARCEL-37. **Auctioning Authority:** Sr. DCM/SDAH. **Auction Start (All lots):** 03.01.2025 at 11:00 hrs. **Auction Close Date/ Time:** 03.01.2025 at 14:20 hrs. **Auto Extensions Zone:** 120 Seconds. **Auto Extension Duration:** 120 Seconds. **Initial Cooling Off Period:** 30 minutes. **Successive Lots Closing Interval:** 10 minutes. **Maximum Auto Extensions:** 10 Times. **Decision Mode:** Auto, RP Displayed - No, Permit bid below RP-Yes. **Description:** Parcel Space in SLR Coach (Single Compartment) [For Seq. No. AA/1 to AA/17] and Parcel Space in Parcel Van [For Seq. No. AB/1]. **Seq. No., Lot No./Category, Trips/Days, Close Date/Time** are as follows: **AA/1**, 13153-SLR-R1-SDAH-MLDT-23-1 (Parcel - SLR), 730, 03.01.2025, 11:30 hrs. **AA/2**, 13153-SLR-F1-SDAH-MLDT-23-1 (Parcel - SLR), 730, 03.01.2025, 11:40 hrs. **AA/3**, 13153-SLR-F2-SDAH-MLDT-23-1 (Parcel - SLR), 730, 03.01.2025, 11:50 hrs. **AA/4**, 19607-SLR-F1-KOAA-MDJN-23-1 (Parcel - SLR), 104, 03.01.2025, 12:00 hrs. **AA/5**, 22197-SLR-F1-KOAA-VGLJ-23-1 (Parcel - SLR), 104, 03.01.2025, 12:10 hrs. **AA/6**, 13173-SLR-F2-SDAH-SBRM-24-1 (Parcel - SLR), 417, 03.01.2025, 12:20 hrs. **AA/7**, 13175-SLR-F2-SDAH-SCL-23-2 (Parcel - SLR), 313, 03.01.2025, 12:30 hrs. **AA/8**, 12317-SLR-F1-KOAA-ASR-22-2 (Parcel - SLR), 105, 03.01.2025, 12:40 hrs. **AA/9**, 19414-SLR-F1-KOAA-ADI-23-1 (Parcel - SLR), 104, 03.01.2025, 12:50 hrs. **AA/10**, 13141-SLR-F2-SDAH-NOQ-23-1 (Parcel - SLR), 730, 03.01.2025, 13:00 hrs. **AA/11**, 13105-SLR-F1-SDAH-BUI-24-1 (Parcel - SLR), 312, 03.01.2025, 13:10 hrs. **AA/12**, 13105-SLR-F2-SDAH-BUI-24-1 (Parcel - SLR), 312, 03.01.2025, 13:20 hrs. **AA/13**, 13145-SLR-F1-KOAA-RDP-24-2 (Parcel - SLR), 313, 03.01.2025, 13:30 hrs. **AA/14**, 13165-SLR-R1-KOAA-SMI-23-2 (Parcel - SLR), 104, 03.01.2025, 13:40 hrs. **AA/15**, 12501-SLR-F1-KOAA-AGTL-24-1 (Parcel - SLR), 104, 03.01.2025, 13:50 hrs. **AA/16**, 12313-SLR-F1-SDAH-NDLS-23-1 (Parcel - SLR), 730, 03.01.2025, 14:00 hrs. **AA/17**, 22323-SLR-F1-KOAA-GCT-24-1 (Parcel - SLR), 104, 03.01.2025, 14:10 hrs. **AB/1**, 13155-13156 -VP-1-KOAA-SMI-24-1 (Parcel - Parcel Van), 208, 03.01.2025, 14:20 hrs. **Rate Unit:** Per Trip Licensing Fee [For Seq. No. AA/1 to AA/17] and Per Round Trip (Two Way) [For Seq. No. AB/1]. **Min. Incr. (%)** 0.2 [For each]. **EMD:** 5% [For each]. **Turnover Required :** 0 [For Seq. No. AA/1 to AA/8, AA/8 to AA/15 & AA/17], 2000000 [For Seq. No. AA/7 & AB/1] & 5000000 [For Seq. No. AA/6 & AA/16]. **Lot Status:** RP Pending [For each].

SDAH-280/2024-25
Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.irops.gov.in

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EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
Tender Notice

(1) Name of work with its location: Outsourcing of PSI maintenance activities for electrified section in Sonpur division. (2) Approx. cost of the works (₹): ₹ 1,16,89,778.09 (3) Earnest Money to be deposited (₹): ₹ 2,08,500.00 (4) Date & time for submission of e-tender and opening of e-tender: Opening of e-tenders: on 10.01.2025 at 12:00 hrs. in the office of the Sr. Divl. Electrical Engineer (TRD), DRM Office, E.C. Railway, Sonpur. (5) Website particulars and notice board location where complete details of e-tender can be seen: WEBSITE: <http://www.irops.gov.in> NOTICE BOARD: DRM Office Campus, E.C. Railway, Sonpur. Sr Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD East Central Railway / Sonpur PR/01714/SEE/ELEC/124-25/24

EASTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. F-Wagon-MatMovement25, Dt. 17.12.2024.
Open e-Tender is invited by Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer (Wagon), Eastern Railway, Jamalpur Workshop, District-Munger, Bihar-811214 for the following work : **Name of the Work:** Movement of release material & overhauled material between various Wagon Repair Shops (WRS-I, II, III, IV, V & CBS) and Wagon Component Shops - I & II (WCS-I & II) as per schedule of work at Locomotive Workshop, Jamalpur. **Place of Work:** Locomotive Workshop, Eastern Railway, Jamalpur. **Tender Value:** ₹ 56,14,319.70. **Cost of Tender Documents:** ₹ 0.00. **Validity of offer :** 60 days. **Bidding start date :** 25.12.2024. **Tender Closing Date & Time:** 08.01.2025 at 15.30 hrs. **Period of completion :** 24 months. **Details available at :** www.irops.gov.in MSC-286/2024-25
Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.irops.gov.in

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EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-Auction Notice

On behalf of president of India, DRM (Commercial), E.C.Railway, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya invites e-auction for Fixing up of vinyl stickers on train mirrors, space between middle berth and upper berth and on the gate (inner side) in each coach of passenger trains having primary maintenance over Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya division. Details are as under-
1: AA/1, Name of work with train no. and completion period : Fixing up of vinyl stickers on train mirrors, space between middle berth and upper berth and on the gate (inner side) in each coach of passenger trains having primary maintenance over DDU Division for 03 years. E-Auction Catalogue No. : HyB-DDU-25-01 E-Auction Lot No. : HyB-OnB-155029-24-1 Date & Time for E-Auction : E-auction will start at 11:00 hrs. and close at 11:30 hrs on 01.01.2025.
2. Website particular where complete details of E-Auction available : www.irops.gov.in (E-auction Leasing)
Divisional Railway Manager (Comm.) / ECR/Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya PR/01720/DDU/Comm./N/24-25/36

MORE TENDER ADS ON PAGE 2, 6

EASTERN RAILWAY
CORRIGENDUM

Corrigendum to additional E-Auction Programme of Eastern Railway for the Month of December, 2024. For the advertisement of E-Auction Programme of Jamalpur Depot over Eastern Railway, published earlier in this newspaper by Chief Materials Manager/ADMN, additional programme has been made as under: **Additional Auction Date of Jamalpur Depot :** 26.12.2024. The other dates of Jamalpur Depot along with other Depots & Divisions shall remain unchanged. Stores-65/2024-25
Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.irops.gov.in

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TENDER NOTICE
NIT No.-06 / BPS / 15th CFC / 2024-2025, Dated: 19-12-2024

Tender has been floated for 5 (five) Nos. work under Baman-gola Panchayat Samity, Malda. Under 15th FC fund. Tender Circulated Memo. No. 566 / BPS / 24-25 Dated: 19-12-2024.

Bona fide contractors / suppliers are requested to visit the e-Tendering portal of Govt. of W.B. & Office notice board.

Sd/-
Executive Officer
Bamangola Panchayat Samity, Malda

Memo. No. 1171(2)/DICO/MLD
Date: 19-12-24

EASTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. : EL/HWH/25/21 (Notice)/629, dated 18.12.2024.
Open e-tenders is invited by Divisional Railway Manager, Eastern Railway, Howrah, DRM Building, near Howrah Railway Station, Howrah-711101 for the under-mentioned electrical work : **Sl. No. 1: Tender No. : EL-HWH-25-21-3341-S3. Name of Work:** Annual Maintenance Contract of one no. passenger Lift (Make - Thyssenkrupp Elevator (India) Pvt. Ltd.) at Gitanjali Museum, (Boltpur for 36 months. **Tender Value :** ₹ 3,74,787/- **Bid security (Earnest Money Deposit):** ₹ 7,500/- **Completion Period:** 36 Months. **Sl. No. 2: Tender No. : EL-HWH-25-21-3346-S3. Name of Work:** Comprehensive Maintenance Contract of GM Passenger Lift (Make - Thyssenkrupp) located in GM Block at Head Quarters, Fairlie Place Kolkata for 60 months. **Tender Value :** ₹ 7,77,172/- **Bid security (Earnest Money Deposit) :** ₹ 15,600/- **Completion Period :** 60 Months. **Closing date and time of tender :** 08.01.2025 at 15.00 hrs. In case the date of closing mentioned in the Notice Inviting Tender is declared a holiday/ bandh/strike on any account, the date of closing tender online will not be changed as the application in the website of IREPS does not permit submission of any offer after closing date and time of the tender. However, opening of tenders online will be on any convenient day after closing date and time of the tender. The details of tender are available at website www.irops.gov.in. Tenderers are requested to submit their offer online on the above website. HWH-495/2024-25
Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.irops.gov.in

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e-TENDER NOTICE
Jadupur-II Gram Panchayat invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for NIT No.: 02(e) & 03(e) / J-IIGP / 2024-25 dt. 19-12-2024 Fund-(15th FC Tied & Untied) Period of downloading bidding documents from the e-procurement portal: From 20-12-2024 (from 12-00 hrs.) to 30-12-2024 (up to 17-00 hrs.). Deadline for receiving of bids online: 30-12-2024 (up to 17-00 hrs.). Time and date and place for opening of Technical Bids online: 02-01-2025 (at 14-00 hrs.). Time and date and place for opening of Financial Bids online: To be informed later more details Jadupur-II G.P. Office.

Sd/-
Proadhan
Jadupur-II Gram Panchayat Malda

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE (SURVEY AND CONSTRUCTION)
Dy. Chief Engineer (Construction)-III, North Western Railway, Ajmer for and on behalf of the President of India, invites Open e-Tender under Two Packet System for the following work: **1. Tender No. :** 419150428 **2. Name of the work with its location :** Formation works involving earthwork in filling in embankment, cutting and blanketing. Bridge works involving construction of important bridges, major bridges, minor bridges, Road Under Bridges/Limited Height Subways, Foot Over Bridges, trolley refuges, toe wall, retaining wall, pitching, side drain, Building works involving construction of station buildings and other service buildings related to Civil and Traction Distribution, platform, platform shelters, staff quarters, P.Way Works involving supply of ballast, transportation of P.Way material, laying and linking of Broad Gauge track and other miscellaneous works including Electrical (General) Works from Raila Road (excluding line from Km 99.00) to Mandpali (excluding) in connection with Ajmer-Chandriya doubling project of Ajmer Division of North Western Railway **3. Mode of Tender :** Normal Tender **4. Approximate cost of the work :** ₹287.30/71.034.16 **5. Bid Security :** ₹1,00,00,000.00 **6. Completion Period :** 24 (Twenty Four) Months **7. Tender Closing Date and Time :** 16.01.2025 at 15.00 Hrs. **8. Website particulars where complete details of E-Tender can be seen :** www.irops.gov.in 1460-CR/24
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EASTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. : 222-S/1/W-II, dated 18.12.2024.
Following e-tenders are invited online by Senior Divisional Engineer/III, Eastern Railway, Sealdah, 2nd Floor, DRM Building, Kaiser Street, Kolkata-700014 for the following works : **Sl. No. 1, Tender No. : TN-212-24-25. Name of the work :** Provision for thorough renovation and repairing of staff quarter including all other ancillary works under the jurisdiction of Sr. DEN/III/Sealdah. **Tender Value:** ₹ 59,62,482.62. **EMD :** ₹ 1,19,300.00. **Sl. No. 2, Tender No. : TN-213-24-25. Name of the work :** Renovation / repair various LC gate road surface (inside and outside of room) including approach roads under the jurisdiction of AEN/Ranaghat. **Tender Value:** ₹ 79,94,221.01. **EMD :** ₹ 1,59,900.00. **Date and time of closing of tender :** 13.01.2025 at 15.00 hrs. for Sl. No. 1 & 2. **Completion period for the work :** 08 (Eight) months for Sl. No. Sl. No. 1 & 2. **Date & time of opening of tender :** 13.01.2025 at 15.30 hrs. The Tender Documents and other details are at : www.irops.gov.in. The bidding for the tender is to be submitted through e-tendering on above website. Manual offers will be summarily rejected. HWH-495/2024-25
SDAH-279/2024-25
Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.irops.gov.in

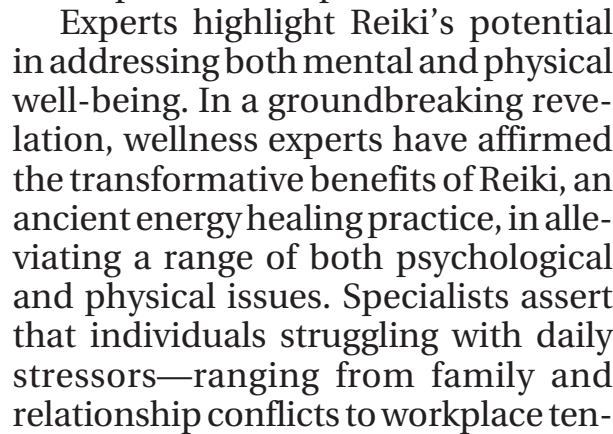
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S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER
Tender Notice No. : e-Tender/2024/37, Dated: 18.12.2024.
For and on behalf of President of India, the Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.), South Eastern Railway, Kharagpur-721301 invites e-tender for the following works before 15.00 hrs. on the date mentioned against items and will be opened at 15.30 hrs. **Sl.No.-1. Tender No. : E-KGP-HQ-41-2024. Description of work:** Execution of the work of (i) Through Fittings Renewal (TRF) of 123.806 Tkm in various patches in Panskura-Haldia & Tamruk-Digha section and (ii) Through Rail Renewal (TRR) Primary (P) of 9.276 Tkm in Tamruk-Digha section under the jurisdiction of Sr.DEN/HQ/Kharagpur. **Tender Value:** ₹ 3,90,00,265.06. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 3,45,000. **Sl.No.-2. Tender No. : E-KGP-HQ-42-2024. Description of work:** Execution of the work of Through Rail Renewal (TRR) Primary (P) of 57.092 Tkm in Tamruk-Digha section under the jurisdiction of Sr.DEN/HQ/Kharagpur. **Tender Value:** ₹ 5,58,82,527.24. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 4,29,400. **Sl.No.-3. Tender No. : E-KGP-HQ-43-2024. Description of work:** Supplying 50mm gauge hard stone machine crushed ballast and loading the same into Railway's wagons/hoppers at Pakur/Bakudi/Barharwa Depot for Kharagpur Division (85.604 Cum). **Tender Value:** ₹ 10,30,66,359.96. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 6,65,300. **Sl.No.-4. Tender No. : E-KGP-EAST-54-2024. Description of work:** Execution of works of Howrah-Kharagpur Section- Deep Screening of Track Ballast for Plain Track and Points & X-joints at different locations under the jurisdiction of DEN/EAST/Kharagpur. **Tender Value:** ₹ 1,34,09,638.04. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 2,17,100. **Tender Document Cost:** ₹ 0 (for Sl.No. 1 to 4 each). **Date of Opening:** 30.12.2024 (for Sl.No. 1 & 2 each) and 02

SOMNATH PAL

THERE ARE SEVEN MAIN CHAKRAS:

- Experts claim that this energy-based therapy can positively impact health, career, relationships and even financial well-being. The practice of Reiki, which originated in Japan, focuses on the



Beyond mental health, Reiki is celebrated for its physical healing effects. Mitali Bhattacharya explained, "Regular Reiki sessions have shown improvements in conditions such as diabetes, high blood pressure, acidity, nausea, kidney issues and joint pain. Many of my clients report a significant sense of well-being and relief from ailments like migraines,

The writer is a freelance contributor

PURBASHA KARMAKAR

According to Nanak, an ideal artist is not one who simply does not rehash the history of painting in their work. Instead, the art should unfold as if the space is traversed by a unified, singular gesture. History becomes a series of pauses and transitions, extracted or reshaped into an open narrative, which eventually collapses, bringing an incidental occurrence

The book has been designed by Pinaki De and mentored by Tapas Sarkar.



The school at the moment is buzzing with excitement as students and teachers are gearing up for the big day. While some are making reels to promote their products, others are working out the decoration and pricing. Expressing her gratitude to the alumni and the parents for making the previous year's carnival a resounding success, Mrs Sonali Sarkar, the principal of Mahadevi Birla Shishu Vihar, remarked, "This year we are expecting more than 3,000 people at our school campus. Our students will once again take everyone by surprise with their aesthetic and entrepreneurial skills. I am certain that their enthusiasm and ingenuity will touch one and all. Do save the date and show your support for Candy Cane Lane 2.0: Our Carnival for a Cause."

SEEMA SENGUPTA

Notwithstanding a tumultuous past, post-independence Bangladesh was built on values of inclusion and tolerance. Though Hasina's domestic political stature is decimated, as she momentarily floundered in upholding democratic values, one must not forget that a flourishing democracy is a bouquet of ideologies where Hasina's Awami League too has a constructive role to play in strengthening the opposition space. A vibrant political system will help prevent repeated military intervention and enable the Bangladesh Army to function from the shadows till the situation normalises completely. Meanwhile, India needs to remain alert, especially in the context of the realignment of her security forces in the Northeastern theatre's counter-insurgency grid, bordering Bangladesh.

The writer is a Kolkata-based journalist and columnist

Hockey rankings: Indian men end year at fifth spot, women in top 10

Indian men's hockey team soar high in FIH world rankings after winning second consecutive Olympic medal at Paris 2024

AGENCIES
LAUSANNE, 19 DECEMBER

The Indian men's hockey team will end the riveting year in fifth place in the FIH world rankings, while the women's team is placed ninth in the latest update released by the International Hockey Federation (FIH) on Thursday. The Indian men's hockey team made history at the 2024 Paris Olympics by winning back-to-back medals at the Games for the first time since the 1972 Olympics in Munich.

Olympic champions the Netherlands (3267 points) stand at the top of the rankings. The Netherlands started the year in the top spot following a great run in the FIH Hockey Men's World Cup, and gold medals at the FIH Hockey Pro League and the Euro-Hockey Championship in 2023.

A fast start to the 2024-25 season of the FIH Hockey Pro League has propelled England (3139) into second place in the world with Belgium (3124) following closely behind in third, having made a good start to the new Pro League season themselves.

Reigning World Champion Germany (3066) had climbed up to second place following their silver medal at Paris 2024, but a rough start to the



Pro League saw them dropping two places, down to fourth in the world.

Eight-time Olympic gold medallist India (2955) and the 2004 winners Australia (2814) are placed fifth and sixth in the world, with both

teams set to start their Pro League seasons at home in February 2025 -- the Kook-aburras playing in Sydney from February 4, while the Men in Blue will start their campaign on February 15 in Bhubaneswar.

Argentina (2722), Spain (2570), France (2116) and Ireland (2112) round out the top-10 to end 2024, with South Africa (2082), New Zealand (2058), Malaysia (1970), Korea (1945) and Pakistan (1942) giving chase as

teams ranked from 11 to 15. In the women's world rankings, the Netherlands (3689) had another perfect year winning the gold medal at the Paris 2024 Olympics, along with the EuroHockey Championships gold and

another FIH Hockey Pro League title.

Argentina (3203) continue to remain in a distant second place, following their bronze medal performance at Paris 2024. They did manage to close the gap between themselves and the Netherlands earlier this month, after getting their first win in nearly three years, over the Dutch side in the FIH Hockey Pro League 2024-25. Belgium (2918), Germany (2846), and Australia (2820) started the year as the third, fourth, and fifth-ranked teams in the world, respectively, and continue to hold the same positions as they head into 2025.

However, following them closely behind and rapidly closing the gap are Alyson Annan's China (2685), who have gone from strength to strength in 2024, with a historic silver medal performance at the Olympics. England (2471) are stepping into a new era following a slew of retirements in the aftermath of Paris 2024, and while they hold on to the seventh spot in the world rankings, three losses in four matches to start the new season of the Pro League mean, the chasing pack have now closed in on the English.

Spain (on eighth, 2422), India (ninth, 2350) and New Zealand (10th, 2124) round out the top-10 positions heading into 2025.

Liverpool, Arsenal, Newcastle enter Carabao Cup semis



AGENCIES
SOUTHAMPTON, 19 DECEMBER

Goals from Darwin Nunez and Harvey Elliott earned Liverpool a place in the Carabao Cup semifinals with a 2-1 win at Southampton.

Arne Slot's men opened up an advantage of two by the half-time interval, with a close-range Nunez finish followed by Elliott wrapping up a slick move via a slight deflection.

The Reds' lead was reduced just shy of the hour mark at St Mary's as Cameron Archer dispatched a curler, but they saw out the contest to secure their spot in the semi-finals of the competition. Elsewhere, a Gabriel Jesus hat-trick helped Arsenal to a 3-2 win over Crystal Palace in the Carabao Cup quarter-finals on Thursday.

Palace looked capable of pulling off a shock when they took the lead with their

first shot of the match - Jean-Philippe Mateta getting the better of Jakub Kiwior to score the opener.

But Arsenal's second-half substitutes Martin Odegaard and Bukayo Saka made an instant impact. Both players provided goalscoring opportunities for Jesus and the Brazilian forward made no mistake in front of goal.

The Brazilian completed his hat-trick when he again was found by Odegaard and drilled his shot past Henderson to win the game.

Eddie Nketiah planted a seed of doubt with an 85th minute header for Palace on his first visit back to Emirates Stadium, but Arsenal held firm to reach the last four.

Meanwhile, Sandro Tonali's double helped see Newcastle United through to Carabao Cup last four with a comfortable 3-1 victory over Brentford at St James' Park.

ISL: Table-toppers Mohun Bagan face high flying FC Goa

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
FATORDA, 19 DECEMBER

Defending champions Mohun Bagan Super Giant will aim to bolster their lead at the top of the Indian Super League (ISL) points table when they take on FC Goa at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Fatorda on Friday.

Both teams will hope to build on their current form and maintain the winning momentum. FC Goa will aim to improve their record against the Mariners, having lost five of their eight meetings (W2 D1) in the ISL, including a narrow 0-1 defeat in their most recent encounter on 14 February, 2024.

Mohun Bagan Super Giant's unbeaten run has seen them win seven and draw one of their last eight ISL games, and a win in this fixture would equal their record for the longest winning streak (5) in the competition's history, achieved twice before (2021 and 2023). For FC Goa, who have scored in each of their last 11 home games, this match presents an opportunity to set a new record for their longest home goal-scoring streak.

The Mariners top the league standings with 26 points from 11 matches, winning eight and drawing twice, whereas the Gaurs are placed fourth with 19 points from the same number of games.



Both these teams have been in equally efficient forms upfront, with the Kolkata-based team netting 22 times in the competition thus far, as compared to the 21 of the Manolo Marquez-coached side.

However, the visitors have been comparatively better organised at the back, conceding 10 goals as opposed to the 15 of FC Goa. Mohun Bagan Super Giant have kept

the most clean sheets (6) in the league, and the Gaurs rank fourth in this regard (3).

FC Goa on the other hand have a dynamic frontline with versatility in attack. The Gaurs have seen nine different goal-scorers this season, a tally only bettered by Mohun Bagan Super Giant's 10. This collective effort will be important as they face one of the strongest defences in the league.

The clash will also be a challenge for FC Goa head coach Manolo Marquez, who has an uninspiring record against Mohun Bagan Super Giant, winning just three of his 12 meetings with the Mariners (D5 L4). His win rate of 25% against them is his second-lowest against teams he has faced multiple times (18.2% vs Mumbai City FC).

Marquez admitted that

the Mariners have a nice mix of international and domestic stars that make them a strong opponent. "I feel that we are playing one of the strongest teams in the competition. Mohun Bagan have most of the top national team players, and they've spent a lot on getting good foreigners too," Marquez said.

Should Mohun Bagan Super Giant score two goals in this game, they will equal their highest goal tally after 12 games in an ISL season (24 goals in 2021-22).

Jamie Maclaren tops the charts for them with four strikes, whereas the trio of Jason Cummings, Subhasish Bose, and Manvir Singh follow with three goals each to their name.

Mohun Bagan Super Giant are tenacious tacklers and have been vigilant in breaking the opposition's offenses, as they are the team with the second-most successful tackles (136) in ISL 2024-25, only behind the 158 of Kerala Blasters FC.

Lalengmawia Ralte leads the charge in this front for the Mariners, with 26 successful tackles - followed by Bose (21), Asish Rai (17), and Liston Colaco (13).

Mohun Bagan Super Giant head coach Jose Molina expressed that his team never gives up the fight irrespective of if the game is going against them.

Patna Pirates coach Redhu reveals key PKL strategy

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
PUNE, 19 DECEMBER

In a crucial Pro Kabaddi League (PKL) Season 11 encounter, Patna Pirates had secured their playoff berth with a 41-37 victory over Telugu Titans at the Balewadi Sports Complex last Tuesday.

The win was marked by exceptional defensive performances from skipper Ankit Jaglan and Deepak, who both achieved High 5s, while raider Devank continued his impressive form with another Super 10.

Patna Pirates' coach Narender Redhu revealed how the team's early-season struggles shaped their journey to the playoffs.

"Throughout the league stage, we lost several matches by narrow margins - just one or two points - due to small mistakes," Redhu reflected. "But making it to the playoffs is a moment of great joy for the entire team," Redhu was quoted in a release from PKL as saying.

The Pirates' defensive unit has been a cornerstone of their success.

Ankit Jaglan and Deepak have four High 5s each, while Shubham Shinde has three. This defensive stability, com-



bined with strategic raiding, has been key to the playoff qualification achieved by the Patna Pirates.

The coach highlighted this strategic approach against the Telugu Titans, particularly in containing their star raider Pawan.

"Our primary focus was to stop Pawan early in the game. We knew if we could control him, the match would remain competitive," Redhu explained. The strategy paid off as the Pirates' defence executed crucial Super Tackles at key moments," the Patna Pirates coach said.

A standout moment in the match came through the

combined efforts of Ankit and Deepak, whose Super Tackles proved to be the turning point.

Redhu was particularly effusive in his praise for the defensive trio, stating he was "at a loss for words" to describe their performance in the crucial Super Tackle situations.

Devank's performance drew special attention, as he shouldered the raiding responsibilities when the team's other raiders weren't at their best.

His ability to handle pressure and secure points consistently throughout the match proved crucial in the Pirates' victory.

Odisha forward Kanika aims to soar high in women's HIL

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 19 DECEMBER

One of the rising stars of Indian hockey, Kanika Siwach is excited to ply her trade in the inaugural Women's Hockey India League (HIL) with Odisha Warriors.

After a stellar performance in the recently concluded Women's Junior Asia Cup 2024, where she netted eight goals in as many games to finish as the second top scorer for champions India and the fourth overall, Kanika is eager to transition from the junior ranks to the senior stage in this prestigious league.

Reflecting on her journey from the Junior Asia Cup to the HIL, Kanika expressed her excitement, saying, "I'm thrilled about this transition. Playing alongside such talented players and learning from experienced seniors and coaches is something I've been looking forward to. This is a new journey for me, and I'm eager to grow through



it."

Having scored eight goals in the Junior Asia Cup, the 19-year-old forward believes her recent success has bolstered her confidence for the HIL.

"The Junior Asia Cup was

a huge confidence booster. The experience I gained there will be invaluable as I prepare for this next challenge in the Hockey India League," she remarked.

Joining the Odisha Warriors, Kanika is excited to

contribute to the team's success.

"I feel fortunate to be part of a team like Odisha Warriors, which has some incredible players and coaches. I'm ready to give my best and take full advantage of this

opportunity to showcase what we, as women players, are capable of," she added.

Known for her goal-scoring prowess, Kanika emphasised the importance of teamwork in maintaining her form. "Scoring in hockey is always

a team effort. Trusting my teammates and working together will be key to continuing my scoring streak in the HIL," she explained.

Adapting to the fast-paced and dynamic format of the HIL is a challenge Kanika welcomes with open arms. She credits the guidance of senior players and coaches in helping her prepare.

"I plan to lean on the advice of experienced players and our coaches, who are helping us adjust to the league's dynamic nature. Their support will be crucial in my role as a striker," she noted.

Kanika is particularly excited about the significance of the first-ever Women's HIL for the sport in India.

"This league is a game-changer for Indian women's hockey. It's a fantastic platform for junior players like me to learn and grow. I'm really excited to be a part of such a historic moment," the star striker said.

AFC Beach Soccer: India drawn with Thailand, Kuwait, Lebanon

AGENCIES
KUALA LUMPUR, 19 DECEMBER

India were drawn against hosts Thailand, Kuwait and Lebanon in Group A of the AFC Beach Soccer Asian Cup Thailand 2025. The draw, which saw 16 teams divided into four groups of four, was held at the AFC House in Kuala Lumpur, the capital of Malaysia, on Thursday.

India will participate in the tournament after 18 years, having last featured at the 2007 Asian Beach Soccer Championship in the UAE. The Indian national beach soccer team will be active for the first time since the 2008 Asian Beach Games in Indonesia.

Set to be hosted by Thailand for a third time, the 11th edition of the AFC Beach Soccer Asian Cup will take place at Jomtien Beach in Pattaya from 20 to 30 March, 2025.

The 16 teams were seeded into four pots based on their final ranking from the 2023 tournament, where applicable, with Thailand seeded first as the host association.

Thailand and Kuwait were quarterfinalists in the 2023 edition, while Lebanon were eliminated in the group stage. The top two finishers from each group will move into the quarterfinals.

Qualification to the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup is also on offer - the top three teams will fill the three berths allocated to the AFC for the 2025 edition in the Seychelles.

AFC Beach Soccer Asian Cup Thailand 2025 Draw Result

Group A: Thailand, Kuwait, Lebanon, India

Group B: Japan, China PR, Saudi Arabia, Iraq

Group C: Iran, UAE, Afghanistan, Indonesia

Group D: Oman, Bahrain, Malaysia, Vietnam



FERRARI CONFIDENT OF F1 TITLE: VASSEUR



Ferrari boss Frederic Vasseur expressed confidence in the team's decision to bring seven-time World Champion Lewis Hamilton on board for the 2025 season. Speaking at Ferrari's traditional Christmas media lunch in Maranello, Vasseur revealed the seamless process of securing Hamilton's signature and expressed his faith in his ability to contribute to Ferrari's quest for a world title. For Hamilton, the transfer to Ferrari marks the culmination of a dream long held since his early days in motorsport.

For more updates

www.thestatesman.com

THUMBNAILS

Zimbabwe include seven uncapped players in squad for Test series against Afghanistan: Zimbabwe have included seven uncapped players in their squad for the upcoming two-match Test series against Afghanistan. Both Test matches will be played at the Queens Sports Club in Bulawayo. Batter Ben Curran, who recently made his Zimbabwe debut, and Johnathan Campbell, wicketkeeper-batters Tadiwanashe Marumani and Nyasha Mayayo as well as pace bowlers Trevor Gwandu, Takudzwa Chataira and Newman Nyamhuri are the uncapped players in Zimbabwe's Test squad. The series against Afghanistan marks a momentous occasion for Zimbabwe cricket as it will be hosting its first Boxing Day Test at home in 28 years. The last time Zimbabwe played a home Boxing Day Test, was in 1996, which ended in a rain-affected drawn match against England at Harare Sports Club. Since then, Zimbabwe have only played Boxing Day Tests abroad against New Zealand in 2000 and South Africa in 2017, the latter being a pink-ball day-night fixture in Port Elizabeth. After the first Test against Afghanistan takes place from 26-30 December, Zimbabwe will be hosting their first New Year's Test, scheduled for 2-6 January, 2025.

ICC confirms hybrid model for 2025 Champions Trophy

Matches between arch-rivals India, Pakistan to be played at neutral venue during 2024-27 cycle

TRIDIB BAPARNASH
NEW DELHI, 19 DECEMBER

Putting an end to speculations regarding the upcoming ICC Champions Trophy, the International Cricket Council on Thursday announced that marquee tournament will be played in Pakistan and a neutral venue.

The landmark decision comes as part of a broader arrangement for the 2024-2027 ICC events cycle, which stipulates that the matches between India and Pakistan will be played at neutral venues during this period.

In a statement released by the ICC, it confirmed: "India and Pakistan matches hosted by either country at ICC Events during the 2024-2027 rights cycle will be played at a neutral venue."

The move applies to several upcoming marquee tournaments, including the 2025 Champions Trophy, the 2025 Women's World Cup in India, and the 2026 Men's T20 World Cup in India and Sri Lanka.

Meanwhile, the ICC Champions Trophy, scheduled to begin on 19 February in Pakistan, faced uncertainty due to India's refusal to travel to the host nation, adding to logistical issues for the



tournament's smooth conduct.

The BCCI cited safety

concerns as primary reason behind not traveling to Pakistan, while the PCB argued

that the Indian board should honour the arrangement, given that Pakistan had done

the same during the 2023 ODI World Cup held in India.

Due to strained political relations between the two nations, India has not toured Pakistan since 2008, when they participated in the Asia Cup.

The two arch-rivals last played a bilateral series in 2012-13 in India, comprising white-ball matches.

After that, India and Pakistan have primarily faced each other in ICC tournaments and Asia Cups.

The Champions Trophy, featuring eight elite teams—Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, England, India, New Zealand, South Africa, and Pakistan—will take place in February and March next year.

Pakistan are the defending champions after their triumph in the 2017 edition against India.

This marks the first time the tournament will be held in Pakistan since its inception in 1998.

In addition to the men's event, Pakistan has also secured the hosting rights for the 2028 Women's T20 World Cup, where neutral venues will again be implemented for India-Pakistan fixtures.

The schedule for the ICC Champions Trophy 2025 is set to be confirmed soon.

Ashwin feeling 'relief' after announcing his retirement



AGENCIES
CHENNAI, 19 DECEMBER

After announcing his retirement, Ravichandran Ashwin expressed his thoughts on the decision and said that it is "a great sense of relief and satisfaction" for him after taking a call to say goodbye to international cricket.

India's celebrated off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin revealed his decision to retire from international cricket moments after the Brisbane Test ended in a draw on Wednesday.

On Thursday, the Chennai-born player received a warm welcome after he arrived at his residence in Chennai, a day after announcing his retirement. "It's emotional for a lot of people. It will be emotional, maybe it will sink in. But for me, it's a great sense of relief and satisfaction. It had been running in my head for a while but it was very instinctive. I felt it on day 4 and called it on day 5," Ashwin told a news agency.

Further, the 38-year-old cricketer spoke about rejoining the five-time champions Chennai Super Kings franchise for the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025.

"I am going to play for CSK and don't be surprised if I try and aspire to play for as long as I can. I don't think Ashwin the cricketer is done, I think Ashwin the Indian cricketer has probably called it time. That's it," Ashwin added.

Earlier on Wednesday, Ashwin appeared alongside

India's captain Rohit Sharma at the post-match press conference to announce his decision. Speculation about his retirement began to build when he became emotional and was hugged by Virat Kohli.

Ashwin played 106 Tests, taking a staggering 537 wickets, including 37 five-wicket hauls, and scored 3,503 runs. His contributions to Indian cricket extend far beyond these impressive statistics.

He is the seventh-highest wicket-taker in Test cricket history and the second-highest for India, behind Anil Kumble (619). He also has the second-most five-wicket hauls in Tests, after Sri Lankan legend Muttiah Muralitharan (67).

Ashwin was instrumental in India's dominance in Test cricket, especially during their rise to the top between 2014 and 2019.

In limited-overs cricket, Ashwin played 181 matches, taking 228 wickets. He featured in 116 ODIs, claiming 156 wickets with best figures of 4/25 and scoring 707 runs. In 65 T20Is, he took 72 wickets, with best figures of 4/8, and scored 184 runs. With 765 international wickets across formats, Ashwin is India's second-highest wicket-taker, behind Kumble (953). He was also part of India's 2011 World Cup-winning squad and the 2013 Champions Trophy team. Ashwin's retirement marks the end of a remarkable era, leaving behind a legacy that will inspire future generations.

Josh Hazelwood frustrated after being ruled out of rest of BGT series



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 19 DECEMBER

Australia's star pacer Josh Hazelwood has been overshadowed by the dark clouds of injury during the ongoing 2024-25 Border-Gavaskar Trophy against India.

The seamer expressed his feelings after getting injured during the fourth innings of the third Test at the Gabba against India in the ongoing Border-Gavaskar Trophy 2024-25, according to a report by 7 cricket.

Fitness concerns sidelined Josh Hazelwood from the second Test and limited his participation in the third. It

has been confirmed that the pacer will miss the remainder of the series.

"Just frustrating really. I ticked every box heading into the Test and then I could understand if it was my side again and a little bit underdone but this is sort of just a random calf strain I guess. Will do a deep dive into it and see what we can come up with but it feels pretty random sort of an injury," Hazelwood told the media.

The fast bowler also spoke about injuries he had suffered in the past. "I've had a little history of probably sides and calves they're probably the (0:30) two things that have

kept me out for the majority over the last four years but yeah I sort of just (0:35) keep sort of adding another layer to the defence hopefully. Get back in the gym. I've ticked a lot (0:39) of boxes you know in the last 12 months," the 33-year-old player added.

Recapping the fifth and final day of the Brisbane Test, India had been set 275 for victory as Australia declared their second innings after just 18 overs to set up a grandstand finish, with the tourists reaching 8/0 in reply before the inclement weather set in. The hosts declared their second innings at 89/7, leaving India with a minimum of 56

overs to chase down the victory target and claim a 2-1 series lead.

Earlier, Akash Deep was the last wicket to fall as India were dismissed for 260 in their first innings early on the final day and the Aussies set about scoring some quick runs once the weather cleared and they finally got the chance to chase a positive result.

Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj and Deep bowled well to ensure none of Australia's batters got going, with skipper Pat Cummins declaring the hosts' innings shortly after he had been dismissed for a quickfire 22.

Wouldn't have let him go like that: Kapil Dev expresses surprise at Ashwin's retirement

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 19 DECEMBER

Former India captain Kapil Dev expressed that he would not have wanted the ace Indian all-rounder Ravichandran Ashwin to retire from the game in such a manner. Instead, he would have preferred to bid him farewell with great respect and joy.

Ashwin surprised the cricketing world when he made the announcement of retiring from international cricket with immediate effect after India's third Test against Australia, a game he was not selected for, ended in a draw at the Gabba, Brisbane on Wednesday. His last international game was the day-night Test against Australia in Adelaide, where he took 1-53 in his 18 overs and made 29 runs with the bat, as India lost by ten wickets.

"I feel the next generation has to be better than us. If not, the world is not going ahead. We never imagined somebody could come close to Sachin Tendulkar or Sunil Gavaskar. So you get the next generation come out, their strike rate, their way of playing is so unique. So you appreciate the next generation," Kapil Dev said at an event in Ahmedabad.

"Like Ashwin, you said he is gone. I wish if I were there, I wouldn't have let him go like that. I would have sent



him with a lot of respect and happiness. Because when you leave something, when you love something, it's very tough. And we have to respect those people," the 1983 World Cup-winning captain added.

The 38-year-old, however, will be playing in the IPL 2025 for the Chennai Super Kings, who bought the ace off-spinner for Rs 9.75 crore at the IPL 2025 mega auction last month.

Ashwin ended his 14-year international career with 537 wickets at an average of 24 in 106 Tests and became India's second-leading wicket-taker after legendary leg-spinner Anil Kumble (619). He also scored six Test centuries and 14 fifties. He also played 116 ODIs for India, taking 156 wickets, and 65

T20I matches, taking 72 wickets. Ashwin was a member of 2011 ODI World Cup and 2013 Champions Trophy-winning teams. In Tests, Ashwin was one of the biggest match winners in the Indian team's 12-year-long home dominance and played a starring role in the 2020/21 Border-Gavaskar Trophy win in Australia. Ashwin was one of the 11 all-rounders to clinch the double of 3000 runs and 300 wickets in Tests. He also won a record 11 Player-of-the-Series awards, which is level with Sri Lanka's Muttiah Muralitharan.

Meanwhile, former Australia captain Ricky Ponting has lauded Ashwin's impact on the game, saying the veteran off-spinner always stood out for his remarkably

sharp cricketing brain.

"Well I must admit I'm really surprised to hear that Ravi Ashwin has retired. I mean he's been such a fantastic stalwart of Indian cricket. His record at home is outstanding. His record away from home is equally as good."

"He's going to go down as one of the all-time great spin bowlers, one of the all-time great Indian cricketers. I had the pleasure of playing quite a bit against him and I had the pleasure of coaching him at the Delhi Capitals. He's got one of the sharpest cricket brains that you that you would ever come across," said Ponting in a video posted by the ICC on their Instagram account. Ashwin also scored six Test centuries and 14 fifties with the bat in the longer

format. His last international game was the day-night Test against Australia in Adelaide, where he took 1-53 in his 18 overs and made 29 runs with the bat, as India lost by ten wickets.

Ashwin also played 116 ODIs for India, taking 156 wickets, and being a member of 2011 ODI World Cup and 2013 Champions Trophy-winning teams. Ashwin also played 65 T20I matches and took 72 wickets.

"Whether the way that he looks at batters, the way that he breaks them down and knows he almost like Shane Warne, stays a step ahead of what the batsman was going to do is why he's been such a great bowler. His longevity in the game is amazing," added Ponting.

Ashwin was one of 11 all-rounders to clinch the double of 3000 runs and 300 wickets in Tests. He also won a record 11 Player-of-the-Series awards, which is level with Sri Lanka's Muttiah Muralitharan. He will be seen in action for five-time champions Chennai Super Kings in IPL 2025.

"He's still going to be going around in the IPL and I'll be coaching against him again this year. But a fantastic career, one that I was lucky to be a part of and I'm sure we'll see lots of more wickets and more highlights from Ravi Ashwin as his career goes on," concluded Ponting.

Kohli loses cool at journalist on his arrival at Melbourne airport

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 19 DECEMBER

Veteran Indian batter Virat Kohli has reportedly lashed out at the media person on his arrival at Melbourne airport ahead of the Boxing Day Test.

After the third Test of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy ended in a stalemate at the Gabba, both Australian and Indian teams headed to their next battle in Melbourne for the fourth Test of the series at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

On his arrival at the Melbourne airport, Kohli was engaged in a heated exchange with a journalist, as he appeared to be upset by the presence of cameras directed at his family.

According to The Sydney Morning Herald, reporters were interviewing Australian pacer Scott Boland, when Virat Kohli and his family were spotted nearby. Cameras shifted focus to Kohli, who appeared displeased with his family being filmed in a public setting and engaged in a heated exchange with a reporter.

According to media reports, Virat walked off, before turning back and exchanging a few words with



the journalist.

A reporter from Channel 7 shed more light on the situation. "It was upon seeing the waiting cameras that Kohli became a little heated over what is largely a misunderstanding when he thought the media was filming him with his children," he said on 7NEWS.

Kohli then made his position clear. "With my kids I need some privacy, you can't film without asking me," he can be heard saying, as quoted by 7News. Later, the India star cleared the air with the media once it was explained his kids in fact weren't being filmed and he shook hands with the camera person before

leaving. The star batter and his wife, Bollywood actress Anushka Sharma, have been extremely protective of their family's privacy, especially during travel days and match days when they could get easy exposure to paparazzi and TV cameras.

In 2022, Virat requested the media to avoid publishing pictures of his daughter Vamika. In February this year, the couple welcomed their second child, son Akaay.

Kohli, who started the ongoing Border-Gavaskar Trophy in Australia with a century in Perth, has since faltered, accumulating only 21 runs in the last three outings.